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# Plans at last for 3,200 homes at Manydown

By Adam Flinn

FOLLOWING countless months of discussions, plans have finally been submitted to build 3,200 homes at Manydown in west Basingstoke.

The outline application has been put to Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council to build the homes, two primary schools, a secondary school, shops and community facilities on the 321-hectare site.

Also included are children's play areas, sports pitches, allotments, and a 250-acre country park.

A central street would run through the development from Rooksdown to the west of Worting with a connection into Winklebury, as well as cycle roads and walkways throughout the site.

The plans have been in the pipeline for the last two years, with a number of consultation periods being held in that time for residents to have their say.

John Izett, the borough council's cabinet member for property and development, said: "This planning application marks a notable milestone on our journey to building one of the best designed and thought out new housing developments in the UK.

"It is so much better for having drawn so many of its ideas from local residents through the many stages of consultation.

"I am grateful to everyone for the part they've played so far, and the next important stage will be selection this summer of a private sector development partner.

"We remain on track to build the first new homes at Manydown in 2019."

The borough council and Hampshire County Council have been working together on the plans, as they are the joint owners of a 999-year lease on the land.

The site has been included in the Basingstoke and Deane local plan, although the number of houses has been scaled back from 4,000 to 3,400 and now 3,200.

County council leader Roy Perry said: "As joint landowner, we are committed to develop Manydown as a thriving community.

"This is while showing respect for the environment and reflecting the great character of Hampshire as a place to live, work and prosper.

"As a strategic authority for the county we also have the experience and expertise to ensure long-term planning for Manydown fits seamlessly to developments across the county as a whole."

If outline permission is granted, further applications would be submitted later about the detailed design proposals, such as the exact location of the streets and houses.

Anyone who wishes to view the plans can go to basingstoke.gov.uk/manydownplanning.

• *An artist's impression of the Manydown development where 3,200 new homes are planned*

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# Hospital raises thousands for poppy appeal

PATIENTS, visitors and staff at Basingstoke Hospital have been showing their support to former servicemen and women by donating almost £4,000 to the poppy appeal last year.

Volunteers from the Bramley and District branch of the Royal British Legion collected outside the hospital entrance for a week in November, while collection boxes were placed in the main restaurant and various departments.

A grand total of £3,982.11 was raised – around £300 more than in 2015.

Jean Young, poppy appeal organiser for Bramley and District, said: "We would like to say thank you to the hospital for allowing us to collect for the poppy appeal here and everybody who donated.

"Everyone was so generous and we are really pleased with the amount of money we managed to raise.

"It's a joy to collect at the hospital. We all look forward to it because the staff, patients and visitors are so nice to us."

• Donna Green is given a special certificate by John Delafield, Rhydian Vaughan and Jean Young from the Royal British Legion

Donna Green, Hampshire Hospitals' chief nurse, added: "We have supported the poppy appeal for many years and are always keen to do what we can to help.

"It's fantastic that so much money was raised. We have a good number of staff who have served in the armed forces and this is an activity that many people want to support."

# Parents await verdict on proposed school merger

By Adam Flinn

A DECISION on whether to close Fort Hill Community School in Winklebury and merge it with Cranbourne Business and Enterprise College is expected to be made on Monday evening.

Hampshire County Council's executive member for education, Peter Edgar, is to consider a recommendation to combine the two schools to address a drop in the number of pupils at both.

The council has said that out of 145 available year 7 places at Fort Hill for this September, there were just 38 first choice applications.

But the move has proven divisive to many residents, with more than 1,000 people signing a petition demanding the school remains open.

Cllr Edgar said: "I am fully aware that there are some very strong feelings locally about Fort Hill Community School, for which I have a deep respect.

"In carefully considering the recommended action to be taken on the school's future, I will be taking account of the responses to the public consultation.

"This includes the suggestions for alternative options and the analysis of those, alongside the facts about the school's current status and future prospects."

More than 900 responses were received to the consultation, which was held between January 19 and March 2.

Concerns were raised about the distance pupils at Fort Hill would have to travel to get to Cranbourne, the negative effect it would have on them, and the need for a secondary school in Winklebury, particularly with the upcoming Manydown development.

A statement from the council said: "Every effort would be made to ensure pupils would continue to follow the curriculum they are currently studying. Support would be provided to all pupils affected by any changes that would be implemented, in order to minimise any disruption to their learning."

If the merger is approved, provision for Fort Hill Community School would be discontinued with effect from August 31.

## News Bites

### Driver 'serious'

**ALTON:** A driver is in a life-threatening condition in hospital following a car crash on Wednesday last week.

A grey Suzuki Swift and a silver Audi A4 collided on the eastbound A31 at around 3.45pm.

The driver of the Suzuki, a 28-year-old man from Guildford, was taken to Southampton General Hospital with life-threatening injuries, where he remains.

A 55-year-old woman in the Audi suffered minor injuries.

Anyone with information about what happened or who witnessed the crash is asked to contact police on 101, quoting reference number 44170087834.

### Green week

**BASINGSTOKE:** Planning is under way for the fifth Basingstoke Green Week, taking place later this year.

The annual event showcases the work going on around the district to protect the environment, as well as celebrating organic products and services.

It is running from September 16 to 25, and organisers are now looking for groups who want to do something green during the week.

Borough councillor Hayley Eachus said: "It will be a week packed with stalls, outings, workshops, guided tours and other activities.

"If you're part of a local business you could take the opportunity to look at innovative green ways of working, or you could simply get involved in a planned event."

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# Masons' delight as the Queen unveils memorial to soldiers

By Adam Flinn

A MEMORIAL to the armed forces in Iraq and Afghanistan created by a Basingstoke stonemasons has been unveiled by the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh.

StoneCircle, which has its factory and showroom in Wootton St Lawrence, was chosen to produce the memorial for Victoria Embankment Gardens, London, where it was officially launched last Thursday.

The work was designed by sculptor Paul Day, who also created the monument for the Battle of Britain. It commemorates both military and civilian deaths in the regions.

The memorial is composed of several blocks, the largest of which weighs in at 7,000kg.

During the building it was put up around a steel frame, and once finished was dismantled and delivered to the site where it was reassambled.

Steve Vanhinsbergh, one of the two brothers who runs the company, said: "Everyone at StoneCircle is very proud to have been commissioned to produce the new memorial.

"It was a challenge both technically and logistically as we were using some of the largest blocks of stone we have ever handled. There's now a small part of London were we can all bore our children with 'we made that' for years to come."

The memorial features two large stones – one representing Iraq and the other Afghanistan – linked by a giant, two-sided bronze tondo.

In total, 682 service personnel were killed in the three conflicts between 1990 and 2015.

Prime Minister Theresa May said: "Hundreds of thousands of our military and civilian personnel put their lives on the line in a heroic effort to help secure greater peace and stability.

"We honour the extraordinary courage and dedication of every one of them."

• Left: The Queen unveils the memorial
Below: The sculpture being made

## News Bites

### MP talks women

**BASINGSTOKE:** Town MP Maria Miller has spoken about the vital role women play in leadership and the workplace.

She was one of the guest speakers at the Women and Leadership event at the Proteus Creation Space, which also heard from borough council deputy leader Terri Reid and Proteus chief executive Mary Swan.

Mrs Miller said: "It was wonderful to take part in this event organised and attended by women – all with a passion to make a difference to their workplace and communities."

### Disney screening

**BASINGSTOKE:** A free screening of brand new Disney show Mickey and the Roadster Racers is taking place at Basingstoke's Odeon cinema on March 25 and 26.

Families are invited to sing along to two full episodes of the show, which are due to be broadcast in April.

The screenings on both days are at 10.40am.

### Cabinet to meet

**HAMPSHIRE:** Hampshire County Council's cabinet is due to meet on Monday at 10.30am at the council offices in Winchester.

# New-look toy store reopens

TOY retailer The Entertainer is set to reopen its Basingstoke store inside Festival Place on Saturday.

The shop has been completely refurbished, and a day of activities such as face painting and balloon modelling is planned on Saturday to celebrate the reopening.

A trolley dash will also be held, undertaken by children's charity Sebastian's Action Trust.

The charity was set up by nine-year-old Sebastian Gates, who died from a brain tumour in 2003 and whose last wish was to build a holiday home for the families of seriously ill children.

Lauren Harris, family liaison co-ordinator for the charity, said: "After seven years of fundraising, Sebastian's wish came true and The Bluebells was opened in 2011 in North Waltham.

"We would like to thank The Entertainer for inviting us to take part in their opening and for their generous donations."

Gary Grant, founder of The Entertainer, said: "We are delighted to announce the reopening of the Basingstoke store following a refurbishment.

"We look forward to bringing even more joy and wonder to the children of Hampshire again."

• *See page 18 for the chance to win one of two £125 gift cards for The Entertainer*

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# New mums to be given more choice

A SCHEME designed to give pregnant women more choice on antenatal care and childbirth is being piloted in Bordon by Hampshire Hospitals.

GP surgeries are working with midwives to make women more aware of the choices available and ensuring they receive the right care for them, through the Maternity Choice and Personalisation Pioneer programme.

Midwives help new mums make choices that best fit their personal circumstances on how and where they give birth.

Ria Haydon, one of the midwives taking part in the pilot, said: "Being able to offer women a variety of choice is so important. That's why I feel this pilot will benefit the women in the Bordon area."

More pilot sites are due to follow in the near future and after being evaluated they will be rolled out across the whole of Hampshire.

Lesley Ayling, GP commissioning lead for the Hampshire programme, said: "We want to ensure that every woman's experience of pregnancy and childbirth is as good as it can be.

"It is important that we can give each expectant mother a clear understanding of the different appropriate options."

# Angry AWE workers planning another eight days of walkouts

By Christian Wilson

AROUND 600 angry workers are set to continue their fight with bosses at Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) with eight more days of strike action.

Members of trade union group Unite have been in a long-running row with bosses at the nuclear deterrent manufacturer over major changes to their pension scheme.

Four separate walkouts at AWE's sites in Aldermaston and Burghfield have taken place over the last few months, including two 48-hour strikes in January ahead of the scheme switch on February 1.

Eight more 24-hour protests are now planned by Unite to take place throughout this spring, after 80 per cent of members voted to continue strike action in a new ballot.

Members of fellow trade union group Prospect last month voted to end all industrial action against their employers after reaching an agreement that will see AWE contribute between 11.5 and 13 per cent to workers' pensions.

But with this still representing a major drop from the 26 per cent offered as part of the previous scheme, Unite members have decided to carry on the fight.

• *The Atomic Weapons Establishment at Aldermaston is facing eight more days of industrial action*

Regional officer Bob Middleton said: "Our committed members feel betrayed and badly let down by what has happened to their pensions and they don't deserve to lose thousands of pounds when they retire.

"The strength of feeling was overwhelmingly expressed in the second industrial action ballot."

Workers will walkout on March 23, March 27, April 6, April 10, April 20, April 24, May 4 and May 8 – moving the number of strike days up to 16 since last November.

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) assured employees that their pensions would be protected after agreeing to transfer the workforce to the private sector in the 1990s.

Unite feel that these promises have been broken however, and have called for workers at AWE to be readmitted to the MoD pension scheme.

And Mr Middleton expressed his belief that constant strike action is "adversely impacting on the Trident nuclear programme".

This accusation follows an insistence by the Office for Nuclear Regulation that AWE has to improve its processes for control of changes to key safety documentation.

The independent nuclear regulator doesn't consider the issue to pose an immediate risk to nuclear safety but called for sustained improvements so that safety is not adversely affected in the future.

Chief nuclear inspector, Dr Richard Savage, said: "This enforcement action follows a period of close regulatory attention at AWE and focused inspection on this area.

"We are concerned that AWE has not established and implemented an adequate process for the control of changes to management system documentation that supports compliance with nuclear site licence requirements.

"While not posing an immediate safety risk, we want to see sustained improvements in order to maintain the multiple levels of defence in depth that we expect from all our nuclear site licensees."

AWE said: "We are committed to establishing future pension arrangements that are affordable for our staff and attractive to future employees.

"This is a very competitive scheme that has been benchmarked against external comparators and puts the revised AWE scheme in the top 25 percentile.

"The safety and security of AWE staff and the general public continues to remain our top priority during periods of industrial action, and we have undertaken detailed contingency planning and have resilient measures in place."

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# Dog blamed after latest savage attack on sheep

By Christian Wilson

A SHEEP has died after a second savage attack in the space of a month on livestock at a farm in Kingsclere.

The dead animal was found at the unnamed farm last Wednesday morning after being fatally injured between 8am and 9.30am.

An examination of the sheep showed it had sustained injuries consistent with that of an attack by a dog.

Police are now warning owners of the consequences of not keeping their pets under control.

PC Vincent Lane, of Tadley police station, said: "All dog walkers need to get the message that this senseless loss of life can prevented by using a lead.

"Dogs worrying livestock is a criminal offence contrary to the Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act 1953.

"In such incidents, the owner or person in control of the dog can be prosecuted, the dog can be shot by the farmer to end an attack and livestock can be seriously injured or killed as a result.

• *Sheep are vulnerable to attack when dogs are not kept on their leads by owners*

"It is also common for other animals witnessing this to die from shock."

It is the second incident to take place in the area recently, with three sheep also being found dead at a Kingsclere farm on February 11.

CCTV captured that day showed two large and unaccompanied dogs entering the farm and trying to get into a chicken pen, before then launching an attack on a flock of sheep.

Two of the sheep suffered serious and ultimately fatal injuries from the incident, while a third that was also nearby died from the shock caused by the attack.

Hampshire police have launched separate appeals to the public to identify those responsible, while advising owners to keep their dog on a lead when in a field with livestock.

Owners should also keep the dog in their sight at all times in a field with no animals, be confident it will return promptly on command and ensure it does not stray off the path or area where they have right of access.

• *Participants in the poetry showcase at The Forge*

# Poetry showcase helps people with dementia

A GROUP of older people living with dementia have taken part in a special showcase celebrating their work as part of a community project.

Finding The Words, run by Anvil Arts, featured participants staging a poetry performance at The Forge earlier this month.

The project is led by local poet Maggie Sawkins and uses poetry as a way of encouraging creativity and social interaction for those with dementia.

A number of themes are explored, such as favourite places and memories. Conversation is used as the source of creating poetry.

The showcase, which happened on March 6, allowed participants to enjoy their work being performed in a professional venue, while a few recited their poems themselves to great applause.

Steven Pugh, day service officer for adults' health at Hampshire County Council, said: "Everyone really enjoyed it and our big thanks go to the Anvil team for taking extra care in making the finale event for our service users very special.

"The poetry created from memories and experiences record their lives and give an individual value to each and every person who participated."


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## News Bites

### Bakery in shed

**CHINEHAM:** A bakery that operates from a shed in the owner's garden has won a top prize at the inaugural Small Food Awards.

Indigo Bakes came first in the bread category for its Lillymill White Sourdough.

It was started by Patrick Bowden last June while he was recovering from a broken leg. He can bake as many as 100 loaves of sourdough a day.

### Food festival

**BASINGSTOKE:** An Easter food and drink festival is taking place at Berry Bros & Rudd's warehouse in Hamilton Close later this month.

A selection of food and drink producers will be joining the wine and spirit merchant from 10am to 5pm on March 25.

### Abuse support

**HAMPSHIRE:** The chairman of the North East Hampshire Domestic Abuse Forum has been helping police in north Africa to deal with the issue of domestic abuse.

Karen Evans spent two weeks in Algeria training officers and sharing examples of how it is dealt with in the UK.

She said: "It provided a great opportunity to learn more about the shared understanding we have about domestic abuse."

# Artist is back in Frame

A HAMPSHIRE wildlife artist is staging his first exhibition since more than £160,000 of his work was stolen from Marwell Zoo in December.

Pip McGarry will display his latest pieces at The Frame Gallery in Odiham next month.

Pip is internationally renowned for his paintings of big cats and African animals, which have sold for up to £80,000 each.

His work is regularly displayed at Marwell, but shortly before Christmas a pencil sketch and 10 oil canvases were stolen.

Pip said: "The Frame Gallery is an outstanding gallery and I could not ask for a better location to host my first exhibition since the theft at Marwell."

The Frame Gallery owner Jan Baker added: "Pip's exhibitions are always the highlight of our events calendar.

"His work is always popular, and we are hoping to break the record sales we achieved in previous exhibitions of his work here."

The exhibition runs from April 28 until May 19.

• *Pip McGarry gets creative ahead of his first exhibition since he was targeted by art thieves*

# Budget with 'practical help' but 'missed housing opportunities'

By Adam Flinn

RATHER unsurprisingly, there was a difference of opinion between Basingstoke's politicians in response to the Chancellor's budget last week.

Philip Hammond revealed his spending plans to the House of Commons on Wednesday, with some of the big talking points including a rise in National Insurance contributions for self-employed workers.

Other issues were a rise in the personal allowance and £2billion of funding to local authorities to provide adult social care.

The measures were welcomed by Basingstoke MP Maria Miller, who said: "This budget is all about practical financial help for families to help make it easier to make ends meet.

"New tax cuts mean basic rate taxpayers will be paying £1,000 less in income tax compared to 2010, and many Basingstoke families will welcome the new support to cut childcare costs.

"At a time where we are shaping a new future for our country outside of the European Union, this budget will help ensure young people get the skills they need to get the sort of jobs that are now created by Basingstoke businesses."

But the town's Liberal Democrats criticised the budget for having "missed opportunities" in providing affordable housing, saying the Conservatives "don't have a clue how to achieve" house building targets.

They brought up that communities secretary Sajid Javid said in an interview that 'ready to go' homes in the form of custom-made apartment blocks would be needed to get one million new homes built by 2020, but these were not mentioned in the budget.

Group leader Gavin James said: "We have an ideal opportunity at Manydown to deliver homes more quickly and more cheaply if we take advantage of modern proven techniques.

"If the Tories are serious about tackling the acute shortage of starter homes and affordable housing, then they need to be proactive and creative.

"But they seem to prefer to sit back, and give huge subsidies to businesses at Basing View. They put businesses before people."

And Labour councillor Jack Cousens was unhappy with the changes to National Insurance for self-employed people.

He wrote on Twitter: "Self employed and earn £20k p.a? The Tories have just increased your tax bill by £20 a month.

"They aren't on the side of working people."


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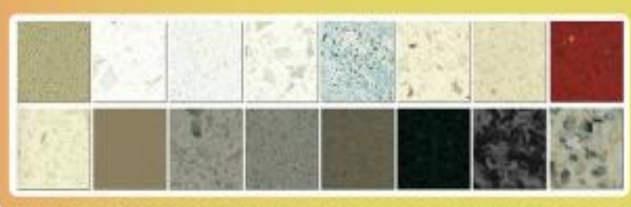

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# 186 drivers caught on their phone

MORE than 180 motorists were stopped for driving while on their phone during a week-long crackdown by Hampshire Constabulary.

In total, 186 drivers were pulled over across the county last week, while a further nine were reported for not being in proper control of their vehicle.

Tougher regulations were introduced at the start of the month for drivers caught on their phone behind the wheel, meaning they now get six penalty points and a £200 fine.

Road safety sergeant Rob Heard said: "Although we have seen a small decrease in the number of people using their mobile phones it is still disappointing and shocking that people will take that risk.

"That moment's inattention has proven to be the cause for many collisions, some with fatal consequences.

"We all need to take the responsibility to remove the temptation of looking at our phones while driving."

Of those stopped, 78 per cent were men, and 70 per cent were aged 25 and over.

During a previous crackdown in January, 220 people were stopped.

Last week's figure represent a 15 per cent fall on that.

# Talented athletes on fast track to Olympic heroics

• *HTAS member Dan Reynaldo excelled for England in the T20*

By Christian Wilson

THE next generation of athletes from across the county have been given a big helping hand on their journey to become future Olympic and Paralympic champions.

A total of 181 young wannabe sports stars are currently involved in the county council's Hampshire Talented Athlete Scheme (HTAS).

Grant funding worth £46,000 is being made available to keep them on the right track.

Executive member for recreation, Cllr Andrew Gibson, said: "The scheme is a real success story and has helped put Hampshire on the sporting map.

"We were all inspired by the record medal haul of GB athletes at Rio, including five HTAS athletes who won eight medals.

"We know from speaking to the sportsmen and women how much of a difference the scheme made to their careers, particularly when they were young and support from national sporting bodies was not always available.

"We're delighted to support the next generation of talented athletes, including many aiming for glory at the PyeongChang 2018 Winter Olympics and the Tokyo 2020 Olympics and Paralympics."

The new grants will see £35,200 used to fund competition and travel costs and a further £10,800 earmarked for fast track physiotherapy and sport science workshops, while all athletes will have access to free training at leisure centres.

Among those to benefit will be Basingstoke's Dan Reynaldo, who won the Inaugural Red Cross International T20 Tournament in 2015 with England's physical disability team.

Charity Energise Me administers the scheme. Chairman of the board of trustees, Richard Millard, said: "We are very proud of the athletes."

Odiham's hockey star Alex Danson was one of nine Hampshire athletes to return home from Rio last summer with a medal.

The forward, and double gold winning Alton Paralympic sprinter Georgie Hermitage, were also among five to benefit from the county council's HTAS scheme earlier in their sporting careers.

• *Apprentice star Mark Wright*

# Wright way to set up in business...

BUSINESSMAN Mark Wright is to speak to students at the Basingstoke College of Technology next week on how they could get into business themselves.

Mark, who won BBC TV show The Apprentice in 2014, will be at the college on Tuesday evening to give advice on setting up a competitive business, as well as speaking about surviving Lord Sugar's boardroom.

He said: "I've been lucky enough to build a successful career, so if I can help or inspire young people to achieve a brighter future after they finish full-time education that would be fantastic."

The event is being organised by Be Wiser Insurance, and will include details about its three-year apprenticeship scheme Surestart.

The event runs from 4pm to 6pm.

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# Funds will help rural elderly cope

A GRANT of £58,000 has been awarded by Hampshire County Council to a scheme that supports older people in rural areas with day-to-day tasks.

Village Agents will use the cash to help the elderly access information related to issues such as day care, computer training and finding reputable tradespeople. It was established in July 2012.

More than 60 agents have completed over 7,500 volunteer hours, helping 13,000 people.

County council leader Roy Perry said: "There are a great many services available to help older people and their families remain connected in their communities, but they are often not aware of them.

"Village Agents play an important role in helping people to find the support they need.

"With 60 agents already in place across the county we have seen this early intervention successfully enabling older people to remain living independently for longer in their own homes, with access to the services they require.

"The scheme also encourages people to become more involved in their local neighbourhoods, building stronger rural communities and reducing social isolation."

# Santa fun run will fight 'below-the-belt' cancers

By Christian Wilson

A BASINGSTOKE charity is calling on generous residents to get in the festive mood early.

Pelican Cancer Foundation is hoping the power of Christmas will help the charity raise the funds needed to keep supporting life-saving medical research.

The foundation, based in The Ark, provides education and financial support to improve precision surgery, detection and treatment of different cancers.

The new year has already seen major breakthroughs both in detecting prostate cancer and treating bowel cancer, thanks to studies funded and developed by Pelican.

And while more than three quarters of the year remain until December 25 comes around again, the charity is already planning its first ever Festive Fun Run.

December 10 will see War Memorial Park filled, for the first time ever, by hundreds of jogging Santas, with all of the money raised helping the advancement of treatment for bowel, liver, bladder and prostate cancers.

Pelican chief executive Sarah Crane said: "We wanted to put on a truly local event that everyone can get involved in.

"Although our work has a positive impact on both a national and global scale, our roots are in Basingstoke and we hope to raise more awareness of the work we do and continue supporting ground-breaking research into the treatment of below-the-belt cancers.

"We're really excited to bring this event to the local community, so sign up now – either individually, with family and friends, or in a team."

The fundraiser will represent the first festive fun run in Basingstoke for more than five years, with runners able to test themselves over 2.5km or 5km.

Cabinet member for communities on the borough council, Simon Bound, said: "I would really encourage people to get involved in this fun and healthy community event in our War Memorial Park.

"It's a great opportunity to get fit and also raise support for a good local cause."

Early-bird runners can sign up now, with places costing £10 for adults and £7.50 for children. The fee includes a Santa suit and a medal at the finish line.

To register, visit pelicancancer.org.

• *Pelican staff launch the Festive Fun Run, which will take place on December 10 in War Memorial Park*

## News Bites

### £1,000 for cake

**HAMPSHIRE:** A special cake made for the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance (HIOWAA) has been sold for £1,000.

Cake decorator Karen Young made the tasty creation to raise money after having been rescued by the air ambulance in 2009 when she suffered an allergic reaction to a bee sting.

Karen said: "I will always be incredibly grateful. Being in a situation where your breathing is restricted is really frightening and I shall never forget the day I was rescued.

"The air ambulance brought the medical professionals and drugs that I needed. They were fantastic."

### Money debate

**HOOK:** Members of the North East Hampshire Green Party hosted a meeting about investment, divestment and bank lobbying last Wednesday.

'Money – what is it good for?' featured a debate about investing to help ourselves, the environment and the poor.

*Advertorial*

# Two New Faces At Phillips

**THERE are two new faces at Phillips Solicitors.**

The Top of The Town law firm has taken on two new solicitors, Emma Elkington and Sian Lias.

Emma has recently joined Phillips' busy Commercial Team as a Commercial Property Solicitor, having previously worked for a leading London law firm, where she gained valuable experience advising on a wide range of commercial property transactions.

Based at Phillips' London Street offices in Basingstoke, Emma's work includes complex commercial property transactions, the acquisition and disposal of land for development, investment property acquisitions and disposals, secured lending, commercial leases, portfolio management and corporate support.

Emma said: "I am delighted to have joined such a highly regarded firm as Phillips Solicitors.

"Phillips occupies a very strong position in the local commercial property market and the intention is certainly to build on that."

Sian is the firm's latest recruit and works in the Wills & Probate Team.

She specialises in all aspects of private client law, including Wills and Tax Planning, Probate and Estate Administration, and Lasting Powers of Attorney.

Prior to joining Phillips, Sian worked for a Reading-based law firm and is currently in the process of completing her Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners (STEP) qualification.

Sian, who has a friendly down-to-earth practical approach said: "I am passionate about the area of law I work in and being approachable to clients as they are often consulting me at some of the most vulnerable or upsetting times. I pride myself on having good rapport and relationships with my clients in order to help try and ease the burden."

She added: "I'm good at my job and good with my clients as I want to make sure people are looked after properly."

To find out more about Phillips, visit www.phillips-law.co.uk.

*Two new solicitors at Phillips Solicitors. L-R: Emma Elkington and Sian Lias.*

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# Puzzles

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## Two speed crossword

**Quick Clues Across**

4 Female relative (6)
8 Sang (7)
9 Terrified (6)
10 Transmitting apparatus (9)
11 Strip of fabric (4)
13 Prepares for publication (5)
14 Liberty (7)
16 Start a quarrel (7)
18 Flood (5)
19 Consumes (4)
21 Nomads (9)
22 Expenditure (6)
23 Group (7)
24 Highest points (6)

**Quick Clues Down**

1 Collies (9)
2 Shareholders (9)
3 Cheerful (5)
5 Move very slowly (4)
6 Fine cord (6)
7 Buy back (6)
9 Recreational activity
11 Moderate (9)
12 Coming after (9)
15 Attempt (5)
16 Dawn (6)
17 Kindly (6)
20 Notions (5)
21 Grow dim (4)

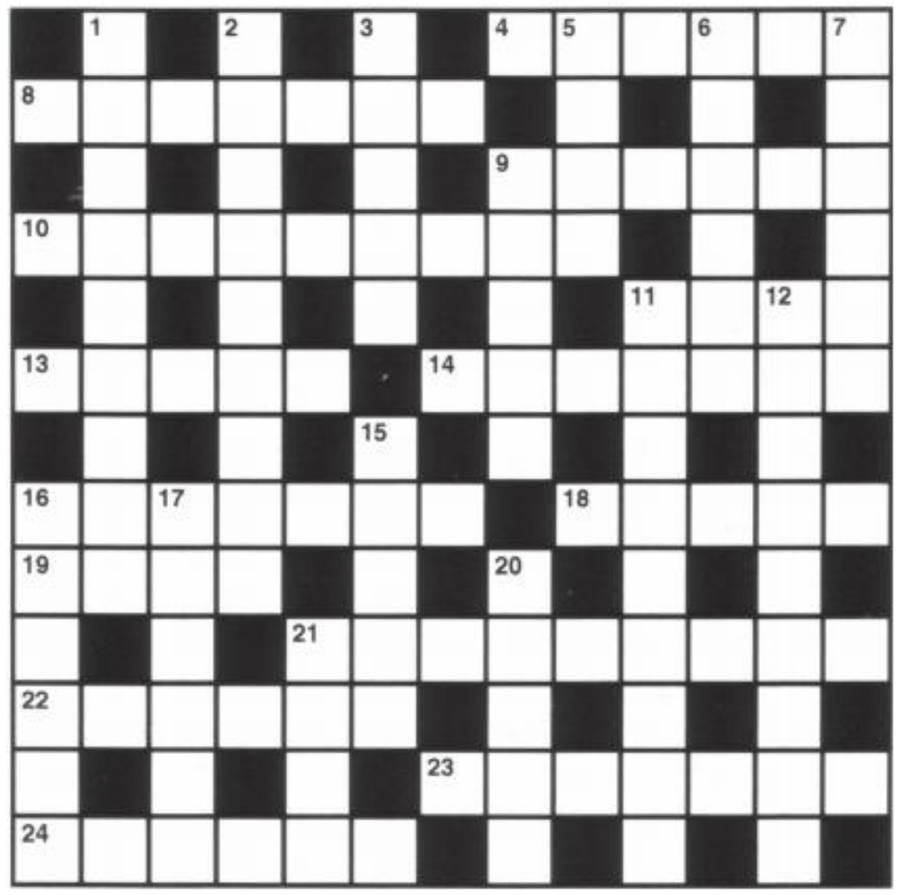
**Scribble space**

**Cryptic Clues Across**

4 Frightened in Biafra, I dare say (6)
8 Claimed to get the point (7)
9 An eavesdropper of low degree (6)
10 An everyday remark showing restrained breadth (9)
11 Was Goliath keen to behead his opponent? (4)
13 Behead the guard to gain admittance (5)
14 Do they till the soil beyond distant French seas? (7)
16 He doesn't enjoy life, producing vinegar all around the south
18 Inclined to soak (5)
19 Looks as though she would provide shelter (4)
21 Give us our part to be carried away (9)
22 Curtail the action before the writer can make it more profound (6)
23 Forbid one as fruit (7)
24 Are its ingredients wholly ironic? (6)

**Cryptic Clues Down**

1 Helpers in disarray pour out again (9)
2 Trots back and died without (9)
3 Superfluous midriff, by the sound of it (5)
5 Watch this for the time being (4)
6 A recess in rural Coventry (6)
7 Is frightened of disturbing the snakes (6)
9 I do business with a model (5)
11 City for the Dutch master mad about a new movement? (9)
12 Not even abnormal (9)
15 Does the prima donna begin her note on the couch? (5)
16 A team's undertones? (6)
17 Join me in the money (6)
20 Here's a mixed toast to the furry animal (5)
21 Bring up, or it could be brought up (4)



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With several qualified and experienced Lifetime Mortgage Advisers, Michael Usher Mortgage Services, based at the end of the one way system, is open Monday to Friday (Saturday by appointment only). Established in 2001, Michael leads a team of 25 staff offering Mortgage Advice, Will Writing & Estate Planning and Sales & Lettings Management.

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If you're interested in knowing more about Lifetime Mortgages or have any other Mortgage questions, contact Sean Usher or Joe Capon on 01256 637000 or drop into the office at 35a Winchester Street, Basingstoke, RG21 7EE.

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# Puzzles

## Sudoku

The objective is to fill a 9×9 grid with digits so that each column, each row, and each of the nine 3×3 sub-grids that compose the grid (also called "boxes", "blocks", "regions", or "sub-squares") contains all of the digits from 1 to 9. The puzzle setter provides a partially completed grid, which for a well-posed puzzle has a unique solution.

### EASY/MEDIUM/HARD

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 8 | 2 | | | 4 | 6 | | |
| 9 | | | | 5 | 1 | 7 | 4 | |
| | | 1 | 9 | | 6 | | 5 | |
| 6 | | | | 7 | 5 | | | 2 |
| 3 | | 8 | | | | 5 | | 7 |
| 7 | 2 | | 8 | 6 | | | | 1 |
| | 4 | | 3 | | 8 | 9 | | |
| | 5 | 7 | 6 | 2 | | | | |
| | | 9 | 5 | | | 8 | 2 | |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | 1 | | 9 | | | |
| 1 | 7 | | | | | | 9 | 5 |
| 9 | | 2 | | | 3 | | | 7 |
| | | 8 | 5 | | 6 | 1 | | |
| | | | 3 | | 4 | | | |
| | | 9 | 7 | | 8 | 2 | | |
| 6 | | 1 | | | | 5 | | 9 |
| 3 | 4 | | | | | | 2 | 6 |
| | | | 4 | | 2 | | | |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | | 2 | 3 | | | | 1 | |
| | 5 | | | | | | 3 | 7 |
| 6 | | | | 4 | | 8 | | |
| | 8 | 1 | | | 9 | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| | | | 4 | | | 7 | 9 | |
| | | 9 | | 2 | | | | 6 |
| 8 | 3 | | | | | | 7 | |
| | 2 | | | | 1 | 9 | | 5 |

### This week's solutions

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 8 | 9 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 2 | 4 |
| 4 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 9 | 1 |
| 6 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 3 |
| 8 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 9 | 2 | 7 | 1 |
| 1 | 5 | 4 | 9 | 2 | 7 | 8 | 3 | 6 |
| 9 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 5 |
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| 7 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 9 | 7 | 2 |
| 5 | 8 | 6 | 1 | 9 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 4 |

**Quick Crossword**

Across: 4 Sister 8 Chanted 9 Scared 10 Telegraph 11 Tape 13 Edits 14 Freedom 16 Aggress 18 Spate 19 Uses 21 Wanderers 22 Outlay 23 Faction 24 Apexes

Down: 1 Sheepdogs 2 Investors 3 Merry 5 Inch 6 Thread 7 Redeem 9 Sport 11 Temperate 12 Posterior 15 Essay 16 Aurora 17 Gentle 20 Ideas 21 Wane

**Cryptic Crossword**

Across: 4 Afraid 8 Decimal 9 Idle 10 Platitude 11 Avid 13 Entry 14 Farmers 16 Ascetic 18 Steep 19 Shed 21 Rapturous 22 Deepen 23 Bananas 24 Satire

Down: 1 Replenish 2 Distorted 3 Waste 5 Face 6 Alcove 7 Dreads 9 Ideal 11 Amsterdam 12 Irregular 15 Divan 16 Asides 17 Cement 20 Sloat 21 Rear


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# Competition

# WIN a £125 gift card with The Entertainer

**TO celebrate The Entertainer's re-opening of refurbished Basingstoke store located in Festival Place on Potters Walk, we are giving away two £125 gift cards to spend in store from the UK's favourite toy retailer!**

The Entertainer is opening its doors on Saturday 18th March, Which will make this the 7th The Entertainer toy shop to be re-opened in the UK. To celebrate the opening, The Entertainer will have a host of exciting activities taking place for you to get involved in. Starting with special appearances from LEGO Ninjago's Kai and Lloyd (along with The Entertainer's mascot - Jack, plenty of fun in-store demos and FREE gifts with selected purchases! In addition the first 20 families to visit the store will receive a FREE gift card!

This will all be taking place on the morning of the re-opening continuing throughout the day with more opportunities to WIN! With The Entertainer

To find out more about The Entertainer and its stores please visit www.TheToyShop.com

**Closing date:** Friday, March 24

**Win a £125 gift card!**

To be in with a chance of winning one of the two gift cards we have on offer just answer the following simple question:

**Q:** Which popular brand of plastic brick recently released their own movie version of Batman?

**To enter this competition and more like it, go online to www.basingstokeobserver.co.uk or www.newburyobserver.co.uk**

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# Saturday March 18th

## BBC1

Casualty, 8.40pm

**6.00 Breakfast** (S) **10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live** (S) **11.30 Football Focus** (S) **12.00 BBC News;** Weather (S) **12.10 Live Six Nations Rugby Union** (S) **2.25 Live Six Nations Rugby Union** France v Wales (kick-off 2.45pm). (S) **5.00 Escape to the Country** (S)(R) **5.40 BBC News** (S) **5.50 BBC Regional News; Weather** (S) **6.00 Pointless Celebrities** (S)(R) **6.45 Let's Sing and Dance for Comic Relief** (S)

**7**

**8**

**8.00 Who Dares Wins** Game show in which strangers pair up to win money. (S)
**8.40 Casualty** Robyn goes into labour in a graveyard. (S)

**9**

**9.30 Mrs Brown's Boys** The family awaits the fruits of its fraud. (S) (R)

**10**

**10.00 BBC News; Weather;** (S) National Lottery Update (S)
**10.20 Match of the Day** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches. (S)

**11**

**11.45 This Country** Mockumentary presenting a wry look at the lives of young people in rural Britain. (S)

**AFTER 12**

**12.10 FILM My Brother the Devil (2012) (15)** Drama, starring James Floyd and Fady Elsayed. (S) **1.55** Weather for the Week Ahead (S) **2.00** BBC News (S)

## BBC2

Dad's Army, 8.30pm

**9.30 Coast** (S)(R) **10.30 Homes Under the Hammer** (S)(R) **11.30 Mary Berry Everyday** (S)(R) **12.00 The Little Paris Kitchen: Cooking with Rachel Khoo** (S)(R) **12.30 FILM Firecreek (1968) (PG)** (S) **2.15 Bargain Hunt** (S)(R) **3.00 Gardeners' World** (S)(R) **3.30 University Challenge** (S)(R) **4.00 Only Connect** (S)(R) **4.30 Final Score** (S) **5.30 Flog It!** (S)(R) **6.30 Wild Ireland: The Edge of the World** (S)(R)

**7.30 Britain at War: Imperial War Museums at 100** Falklands War veteran Simon Weston marks 100 years since the establishment of the Imperial War Museums. (S)

**8.30 Dad's Army** The men head off for a weekend at a training camp. (S)(R)

**9.00 Dame Vera Lynn: Happy 100th Birthday** The former "forces sweetheart" celebrates her 100th birthday by recalling highlights from her career. (S)

**10.00 QI XL** With Sheila Hancock, Jimmy Carr and Jeremy Clarkson. (S)
**10.45 FILM True Grit (2010) (15)** The Coen brothers' Western, with Jeff Bridges. (S)

**12.30 FILM Ash Wednesday (2002) (18)** Thriller, starring Edward Burns. (S) **2.00** This Is BBC Two (S)

## ITV

Ant & Dec's Saturdau Night Takeaway, 7.30pm

**8.10 Scrambled!: Teen Titans Go!** (S) **8.30 Scrambled!: Bear Grylls Survival School** (S) **9.05 Scrambled!: Adventure Time** (S)(R) **9.25 Alphabetical** (S)(R) **10.20 Judge Rinder** (S)(R) **11.20 Rebound** (S)(R) **12.20 ITV News;** Weather (S) **12.30 FILM Carry On Matron (1972) (PG)** (S) **2.15 Off Their Rockers** (S)(R) **2.45 The Voice UK** (S)(R) **4.00 Live Six Nations Rugby Union** (S)

**7.30 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway** The presenter duo take on Phillip Schofield and Holly Willoughby in Make 'Em Laugh. (S)

**8.30 The Voice UK** The tension mounts as the contest enters the quarter-finals, and the coaches seek to find this year's eight semi-finalists. (S)

**10.30 ITV News;** Weather (S)
**10.45 Lethal Weapon** Riggs and Murtaugh pursue a case involving the latter's old training officer. (S)(R)

**11.35 FILM Rambo III (1988) (18)** Action adventure sequel, with Sylvester Stallone and Richard Crenna. (S)

**1.25 Jackpot247 3.00** Who's Doing the Dishes? (S)(R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen

## Channel 4

Penelope Keith at Her Majesty's Service, 8pm

**6.20 The King of Queens** (S)(R) **6.45 Everybody Loves Raymond** (S)(R) **7.35 Race of Champions 2017** (S) **8.30 Frasier** (S)(R) **10.00 The Big Bang Theory** (S)(R) **11.30 The Simpsons** (S)(R) **1.00 Come Dine with Me** (S)(R) **3.30 A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun** (S)(R) **4.30 Location, Location, Location** (S)(R) **5.35 Grand Designs** (S)(R) **6.30 Channel 4 News** (S)

**7.00 Escape to the Chateau** Dick and Angel try to live self-sufficiently, and invest in some chickens to provide them with eggs. (S)(R)

**8.00 Penelope Keith at Her Majesty's Service** The actress visits the Queen's official Scottish residence and the royal yacht Britannia. (S)(R)

**9.00 FILM Lucy (2014) (15)** A courier seeks revenge on the gangsters who kidnapped her after a drug grants her superhuman abilities. Sci-fi thriller, with Scarlett Johansson. (S)

**10.45 FILM RoboCop (2014) (12)** A critically injured police officer is rebuilt as a crime-fighting cyborg, but struggles to retain free will. Sci-fi thriller remake, with Joel Kinnaman. (S)

## Channel 5

NCIS, 8pm

**6.00 Milkshake! 9.55 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles** Crime-fighting capers. (S) **10.30 Access** Showbiz news and gossip. (S) **10.40 On Benefits: Life on the Dole** (S)(R) **1.30 Dance Moms** (S) **4.15 The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door** A woman who took issue when her neighbours started using her drop kerb and driveway. (S)(R) **5.10 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away** (S)(R)

**7.05 NCIS: Los Angeles** A diplomatic service van is hijacked. (S)

**8.00 NCIS** Ducky is assaulted by a man who has information about his long-dead half-brother. (S)
**8.55 5 News Weekend** (S)

**9.00 Football on 5: The Championship** George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce highlights from the weekend's games, including Nottingham Forest v Derby County. (S)

**10.00 Football on 5: Goal Rush** (S)
**10.30 Platoon: The True Story** Oliver Stone reveals the real-life events that inspired his Oscar-winning Vietnam War film. (S)

**11.30 Criminals: Caught on Camera** CCTV footage of a raid on a west London jewellery shop. (S) (R)

**12.00 SuperCasino 3.10** Inside King's Cross: The Railway (S)(R) **4.00** Inside Buckingham Palace (S)(R) **4.50** House Doctor (S)(R) **5.15** Wildlife SOS (S)(R) **5.40** Angels of Jarm (S)(R) **5.50** Roary the Racing Car (S)(R)

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# DIGITAL

### ITV2 SKY: 118 FV: 6

**6.00** You've Been Framed! Gold **6.25** Emmerdale **8.55** Coronation Street **11.20** Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway **12.55** The Voice UK **2.15** FILM: Rumour Has It (2005) (12) Romantic comedy, starring Jennifer Aniston and Kevin Costner. **3.15** FYI Daily **3.20** FILM: Rumour Has It (2005) (12) Concluded. **4.20** FILM: Nanny McPhee (2005) (U) Period fantasy, starring Emma Thompson. **5.20** FYI Daily **5.25** FILM: Nanny McPhee (2005) (U) Concluded. **6.15** FILM: Mr Bean's Holiday (2007) (PG) Comedy, starring Rowan Atkinson. **7.15** FYI Daily **7.20** FILM: Mr Bean's Holiday (2007) (PG) Concluded. **8.00** Scorpion **9.00** FILM: The 40 Year-Old Virgin (2005) (15) Comedy, starring Steve Carell. **10.00** FYI Daily **10.05** FILM: The 40 Year-Old Virgin (2005) (15) Comedy, starring Steve Carell. **11.25** Family Guy **12.55** American Dad! **1.50** Release the Hounds: Famous & Freaked **2.45** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **3.00** Teleshopping

### ITV3 SKY: 119 FV: 10

**6.00** Judge Judy **6.20** Murder, She Wrote **8.10** FILM: Blue Murder at St Trinian's (1957) (PG) Comedy, starring Lionel Jeffries. **9.10** FYI Daily **9.15** FILM: Blue Murder at St Trinian's (1957) (PG) Concluded. **10.00** FILM: Carry On Up the Jungle (1970) (PG) Comedy, starring Sid James. **11.00** FYI Daily **11.05** FILM: Carry On Up the Jungle (1970) (PG) Concluded. **12.00** Hans Christian Andersen: My Life as a Fairy Tale **1.50** Agatha Christie's Marple **3.55** Rosemary & Thyme **5.00** Lewis **7.00** Midsomer Murders **11.00** Rising Damp Forever **12.00** Wycliffe **1.05** Marchlands **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

### BBC4 SKY: 116 FV: 9

**7.00** Britain's Outlaws: Highwaymen, Pirates and Rogues **8.00** She-Wolves: England's Early Queens **9.00** Follow the Money **11.00** Top of the Pops: 1983 **12.00** Neil Sedaka: King of Song **1.00** Neil Sedaka Says: All You Need Is the Music **1.45** Kings of 70s Romance **2.45** Sings Bacharach and David! **3.45** Close

### E4 SKY: 136 FV: 28

**6.00** Rules of Engagement **6.20** Melissa & Joey **7.05** Baby Daddy **8.10** Young & Hungry **9.10** How I Met Your Mother **10.10** FILM: Planet 51 (2009) (U) Animated sci-fi comedy, with the voice of Dwayne Johnson. **12.00** Black-ish **1.00** The Goldbergs **2.30** The Big Bang Theory **6.30** FILM: The Twilight Saga: Eclipse (2010) (12) Romantic fantasy sequel, with Kristen Stewart and Robert Pattinson. **9.00** FILM: The Hunger Games (2012) (12) Sci-fi adventure, starring Jennifer Lawrence. **11.50** Gogglebox **12.50** Bizarre ER **1.55** Rude Tube **3.20** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **4.00** Young & Hungry **4.50** Revenge

### MORE4 SKY: 138 FV: 14

**8.55** Come Dine with Me **11.30** Homes by the Sea **12.35** Location, Location, Location **1.35** Coast vs Country **2.40** Four in a Bed **5.20** Come Dine with Me **8.00** Richard III: The New Evidence **9.00** 9/11: The Falling Man **10.35** 24 Hours in A&E **11.40** 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown **1.45** Father Ted **2.50** 24 Hours in A&E **3.50** Close

### FILM4 SKY: 315 FV: 15

**11.00** Dunston Checks In (1996) (PG) Family comedy, starring Jason Alexander. **1.00** The Addams Family (1991) (PG) Black comedy, starring Anjelica Huston. **3.05** Sherlock Holmes and the Secret Weapon (1942) (PG) Mystery thriller, starring Basil Rathbone. **4.25** The Core (2003) (12) Sci-fi thriller, starring Aaron Eckhart. **7.10** Paddington (2014) (PG) Family comedy, starring Hugh Bonneville. **9.00** Last Vegas (2013) (12) Comedy, starring Michael Douglas. **11.05** Scary Movie 2 (2001) (18) Spoof horror sequel, starring Anna Faris. **12.40** In Fear (2013) (15) **2.20** Storage 24 (2012) (15) **4.00** Close

### DAVE SKY: 111 FV: 12

**7.10** Deadly 60 **10.00** Top Gear **12.00** Motorway Cops **2.05** Gavin & Stacey **6.00** Top Gear **7.00** Not Going Out **9.00** Bottom **11.00** FILM: The Outlaw Josey Wales (1976) (18) Western, directed by and starring Clint Eastwood. **1.40** The Last Man on Earth **2.35** Parks and Recreation **3.20** Mock the Week **4.00** Close

### DRAMA SKY: 158 FV: 20

**7.10** Tenko **9.00** Tenko Reunion **11.00** Sharpe **1.00** Tenko **3.00** Tenko Reunion **5.00** The Ark **7.00** Hetty Wainthropp Investigates **8.00** Maisie Raine **9.00** Taggart **11.00** Waking the Dead **1.20** Sharpe **3.10** Hetty Wainthropp Investigates **4.00** Home Shopping

### SKY1 SKY: 106

**6.00** Futurama **7.15** Modern Family **8.15** Game Changers **8.45** The Fantasy Football Club **9.45** Soccer AM **11.30** Live Premier League. Pre-match build-up to West Bromwich Albion v Arsenal. **12.30** Wild Things **1.30** Duck Quacks Don't Echo **2.00** Portrait Artist of th Year 2017 **3.00** Gillette Soccer Saturday **5.15** Futuram **5.45** Supergirl **6.40** The Flash **7.35** MacGyver **8.30** FILM: Star Wars: Episode IV – A New Hope (1977) (U) Sci-fi adventure, with Mark Hamill and Harrison Ford. **10.50** NCIS: Los Angeles **11.50** A League of Their Own **12.50** Duck Quacks Don't Echo **1.50** DC's Legends of Tomorrow **2.40** Police 10/7

### SKY ATLANTIC SKY: 108

**6.00** The West Wing **11.00** David Attenborough's Conquest of the Skies **3.00** Without a Trace **8.00** Blue Bloods **9.00** Game of Thrones **11.20** Last Week Tonigl with John Oliver **11.55** High Maintenance **12.30** FILM: The Wolfpack (2015) (15) Documentary about six brothers who were banned from leaving their New York flat. **2.15** Veep **4.00** Richard E Grant's Hotel Secrets

### W SKY: 109

**6.10** Beauty and the Beast **7.00** Million Dollar Intern **8.00** The Bill **1.00** EastEnders **3.30** FILM: Zoolander (2001) (12) Comedy, starring Ben Stiller. **5.20** My Family **7.20** John Bishop: In Conversation with Lindsay Lohan **8.20** FILM: The Dukes of Hazzard (2005) (12) Comedy, starring Seann William Scott and Johnny Knoxville. **10.40** Grimm **11.50** Outnumbered **1.10** The Musketeers **2.15** Boston's Finest **3.00** Home Shoppin

### GOLD SKY: 110

**7.00** Cheers **8.30** dinnerladies **9.15** Only Fools and Horses **10.20** Last of the Summer Wine **12.20** Boomers **1.00** Only Fools and Horses **9.00** I'm Alan Partridge **11.00** Bottom **11.40** Filthy, Rich and Catflap **12.20** Bottom Live: Weapons Grade Y-Fronts Tour **2.25** Bill Hicks: Relentless **3.25** jam **4.00** Home Shopping

### SKY SPORTS 1 SKY: 401

**6.00** Football Gold **6.45** Premier League Preview **7.15** Football Gold **7.45** Game Changers **8.15** Premier League Preview **8.45** The Fantasy Football Club **9.45** Soccer AM **11.30** Live Premier League. Pre-match build up to West Bromwich Albion v Arsenal. **12.30** Live Premier League. West Bromwich Albion v Arsenal (kick off 12.30pm). **3.00** Gillette Soccer Saturday **5.15** Live EFL. Leeds United v Brighton & Hove Albion (kick-off 5.30pm). **8.00** EFL Goals **8.30** Nissan Game of the Da **10.30** Nissan Match Choice **11.30** Premier League Highlights

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### Price Includes...
- ✔ Return flight from Heathrow airport to Nice†
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& Catalonia

**Thursday departures, 18 May & 5 October 2017**

### Price Includes...
- ✔ Return flight from Gatwick airport to Barcelona†
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### Price Includes...
- ✔ Return flight from Gatwick airport to Verona†
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and Costa Blanca

**Departing Wednesday 7 June 2017**

### Price Includes...
- ✔ Return flight from Gatwick airport to Alicante†
- ✔ 7 nights half board at the 4 star Cap Negret Hotel, Altea
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- ✔ Half-day excursion to Guadalest
- ✔ Full-day excursion to Valencia with half-day official guided tour
- ✔ Excursion to Marina Alta, Calpe and Valle de Jalon, with paella in Tarbena
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## MADRID
Salamanca and Toledo

**Friday departures, 1 September & 20 October 2017**

### Price Includes...
- ✔ Return flight from Heathrow airport to Madrid†
- ✔ 4 nights at the 3 star Hotel Puerta de Toledo, Madrid and 3 nights at the 3 star Hotel Carlos V, Toledo with breakfast
- ✔ Dinner on the first night in each hotel
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- ✔ Admission to El Escorial Palace and the Royal Palace in Aranjuez
- ✔ Airport taxes, return airport transfers and transfer by coach between Madrid and Toledo

from 8 days, by AIR £899 pp

Quote Code: CFG249
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# Sunday March 19th

## BBC1

**6.00 Breakfast** (S) **7.30 Match of the Day** (S)(R) **9.00 The Andrew Marr Show** (S) **10.00 The Big Questions** (S) **11.00 Sunday Politics** (S) **12.15 Bargain Hunt** (S)(R) **1.00 BBC News;** Weather (S) **1.15 Flog It!** (S)(R) **2.15 Countryfile Spring Diaries** (S)(R) **3.00 Escape to the Country** (S)(R) **3.45 Lifeline** (S) **3.55 Songs of Praise** (S) **4.30 Shop Well for Less?** (S)(R) **5.30 BBC News** (S) **5.50 BBC Regional News** (S) **6.00 The Big Painting Challenge** (S)

**7.00 Countryfile** Matt Baker and Anita Rani present the show from the Hoo Peninsula. (S)

**8.00 Antiques Roadshow** Fiona Bruce presents the show from Burton Constable Hall near Hull. (S)

**9.00 SS-GB** Archer and Harry have to get the king out of London, only to realise too late that they have been led into a trap. Barbara faces being deported back to the US. Last in the series. (S)

**10.00 BBC News** (S)
**10.20 BBC Regional News; Weather** (S)
**10.30 Match of the Day 2** Mark Chapman reviews the latest Premier League action. (S)

**11.40 American High School** The school year comes to an end. Last in the series. (S)

**AFTER 12**

**12.30 The Celebrity Apprentice USA** (S) **1.55** Weather for the Week Ahead (S) **2.00** BBC News (S)

## BBC2

**9.45 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites** (S) **11.15 Nigel Slater's Dish of the Day** (S)(R) **11.45 Simply Nigella** (S)(R) **12.15 MOTD2 Extra** (S) **1.00 FILM Day of the Evil Gun (1968) (PG)** (S) **2.30 The House That £100K Built** (S)(R) **3.30 Back to the Land with Kate Humble** (S)(R) **4.30 Ski Sunday Special: Freestyle Ski & Snowboard World Championships** (S) **6.00 Six Nations Rugby Union** (S)

**7.00 Robot Wars** Dara O Briain and Angela Scanlon present the third heat. (S)

**8.00 Top Gear** Rory Reid and Sabine Schmitz go in search of the latest supercars at Germany's Nurburgring circuit. (S)

**9.00 Down the Mighty River with Steve Backshall** Part two of two. The naturalist braves the dangerous white waters the Baliem River's lower gorge. (S)

**10.00 FILM While We're Young (2014) (15)** Premiere. Comedy drama, starring Ben Stiller and Naomi Watts. (S)

**11.35 Women's Six Nations Highlights** Eilidh Barbour presents action from the concluding round of fixtures. (S)

**12.05 FILM Sergeant Rutledge (1960) (PG)** Western courtroom drama, starring Woody Strode. (S) **1.50** Sign Zone: Question Time (S)(R) **2.50** Holby City (S)(R) **3.50** This Is BBC Two (S)

## ITV

**10.00 Peston on Sunday** (S) **10.55 Wild Australia with Ray Mears** (S)(R) **11.25 Chopping Block** (S)(R) **12.25 ITV News;** Weather (S) **12.30 Who's Doing the Dishes?** (S)(R) **1.30 Off Their Rockers** (S)(R) **2.00 Tipping Point** (S)(R) **3.00 The Voice UK** (S)(R) **5.00 Little Big Shots** (S)(R) **6.00 ITV Regional News;** Weather (S) **6.10 ITV News** (S) **6.30 Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule** (S)(R)

**7.00 Five Gold Rings** Game show, hosted by Phillip Schofield. (S)

**8.00 Vera** New series. The detective investigates when the body of a wildlife ranger is found on a remote island. (S)

**10.00 ITV News;** Weather (S)
**10.20 The Nightly Show Best Bits** Highlights from the third week of the entertainment show. (S)
**10.50 Peston on Sunday** Political magazine. (S)(R)

**11.50 Anglo-Welsh Cup Highlights** Action from the final.

**12.40 Jackpot247 3.00** The Cube (S)(R) **3.50 ITV** Nightscreen **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show (S)(R)

## Channel 4

**6.15 The King of Queens** (S)(R) **6.40 Everybody Loves Raymond** (S)(R) **7.35 Race of Champions 2017** (S) **8.30 Frasier** (S)(R) **9.30 Sunday Brunch** (S) **12.30 The Simpsons** (S)(R) **1.30 FILM Rio (2011) (U)** (S) **3.25 FILM Johnny English Reborn (2011) (PG)** Spy comedy sequel, starring Rowan Atkinson. (S) **5.30 Channel 4 News** (S) **6.00 Dave's Guide to Spending Money** (S)

**7.00 Our Guy in China** Guy Martin examines Chinese innovation, technological development and manufacturing. (S)(R)

**8.00 Rivers with Jeremy Paxman** The presenter travels along the Mersey. (S)

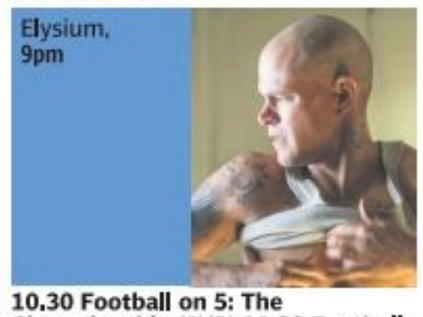
**9.00 Homeland** While Carrie and Saul present evidence to Keane, Quinn tracks a mark. (S)

**10.00 Gogglebox** Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. (S)(R)

**11.00 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown** Jimmy Carr hosts the popular quiz. (S)(R)

**12.00 FILM The Five-Year Engagement (2012) (15)** (S) **2.10** The Last Leg (S)(R) **3.05** Scruffts: Britain's Favourite Dog (S)(R) **4.00** Kirstie's Handmade Treasures (S)(R) **4.10** Phil Spencer: Secret Agent (S)(R) **5.05** Fifteen to One (S)(R)

## Channel 5




**10.30 Football on 5: The Championship** (S)(R) **11.30 Football on 5: Goal Rush** (S)(R) **12.00 The Gadget Show** (S)(R) **1.05 FILM Batteries Not Included (1987) (PG)** (S) **3.05 FILM Zathura: A Space Adventure (2005) (PG)** (S) **5.00 FILM Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs 2 (2013) (U)** (S) **6.50 5 News Weekend** (S) **6.55 FILM Left Behind (2014) (15)** (S)

**9.00 FILM Elysium (2013) (15)** A man living in poverty on a ruined Earth fights to gain access to a space station inhabited by a wealthy elite. Sci-fi thriller, starring Matt Damon. (S)

**11.10 FILM Dark Skies (2013) (15)** Sci-fi horror, starring Keri Russell and Josh Hamilton. (S)

**12.55 Greatest Sci-Fi Movies** (S)(R) **2.10** SuperCasino **4.00** Criminals: Caught On Camera (S)(R) **4.50** House Doctor (S)(R) **5.15** Wildlife SOS (S)(R) **5.40** Angels of Jarm (S)(R) **5.50** Roary the Racing Car (S)(R)

# DIGITAL

### ITV2 SKY: 118 FV: 6

**6.00** Emmerdale **8.30** Coronation Street **11.00** The Voice UK **1.00** 2Awesome **1.05** 2Awesome: Guidance **1.40** 2Awesome: Fame High **2.05** 2Awesome: Third Wheel **2.30** 2Awesome: LA Story **2.50** You've Been Framed! Gold **3.55** FILM: Despicable Me (2010) (U) Animated comedy, with the voice of Steve Carell. **4.55** FYI Daily **5.00** FILM: Despicable Me (2010) (U) Concluded. **5.50** Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway **6.55** FILM: Red Riding Hood (2011) (12) Fantasy, starring Amanda Seyfried. **7.55** FYI Daily **8.00** FILM: Red Riding Hood (2011) (12) Concluded. **9.00** Ibiza Weekender **10.00** Family Guy **11.30** American Dad! **12.30** The Cleveland Show **1.25** The Vampire Diaries **2.15** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen

### ITV3 SKY: 119 FV: 10

**6.00** On the Buses **6.50** Hans Christian Andersen: My Life as a Fairy Tale **8.40** Heartbeat **10.45** Murder, She Wrote **11.45** FILM: The Pure Hell of St Trinian's (1960) (U) Comedy, starring Cecil Parker. **12.45** FYI Daily **12.50** FILM: The Pure Hell of St Trinian's (1960) (U) Concluded. **1.50** Inspector Morse **4.05** Agatha Christie's Marple **6.00** Midsomer Murders **8.00** Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs **9.00** It'll Be Alright on the Night **10.00** Rising Damp Forever **11.05** FILM: Good Will Hunting (1997) (15) Drama, with Matt Damon. **12.05** FYI Daily **12.10** FILM: Good Will Hunting (1997) (15) Concluded. **1.35** Inspector Morse **3.25** May the Best House Win **5.05** On the Buses **5.35** ITV3 Nightscreen

### BBC4 SKY: 116 FV: 9

**7.00** Revolution and Romance: Musical Masters of the 19th Century **8.00** Classic Quartets at the BBC **9.00** Heimat Home from Home: Chronicle of a Vision – Part One **10.40** Heimat Home from Home: Chronicle of a Vision – Part Two **12.40** The Century That Wrote Itself **1.40** How to Get Ahead: At Medieval Court **2.40** Classic Quartets at the BBC **3.40** Close

### E4 SKY: 136 FV: 28

**6.00** Melissa & Joey **6.45** Baby Daddy **7.45** How I Met Your Mother **8.40** Hollyoaks **11.15** FILM: Space Chimps (2008) (U) Animated sci-fi comedy, with the voice of Andy Samberg. **12.55** Made in Chelsea Does Come Dine with Me **2.00** Black-ish **2.30** The Goldbergs **4.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **5.00** The Big Bang Theory **7.00** FILM: Addams Family Values (1993) (PG) Comedy sequel, starring Anjelica Huston and Raul Julia. **9.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **10.00** FILM: Die Hard 2 (1990) (18) Action thriller sequel, starring Bruce Willis. **12.25** Tattoo Fixers **1.30** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **2.30** Gap Year **3.15** Hollyoaks

### MORE4 SKY: 138 FV: 14

**8.55** Come Dine with Me **11.30** Walks with My Dog **12.30** Vet on the Hill **1.35** Homes by the Med **2.35** Four in a Bed **5.20** Come Dine with Me **8.00** Nazi Megastructures **9.00** Father Ted **10.05** Man Down **11.05** 24 Hours in A&E **12.10** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA **1.10** Man Down **2.10** Nazi Megastructures **3.10** Food Unwrapped **3.40** Close

### FILM4 SKY: 315 FV: 15

**11.00** Tooth (2004) (U) Children's fantasy adventure, starring Yasmin Paige. **1.00** Vice Versa (1988) (PG) Fantasy comedy, starring Judge Reinhold and Fred Savage. **2.55** Carry On Jack (1963) (PG) Comedy, with Bernard Cribbins. **4.45** Percy Jackson: Sea of Monsters (2013) (PG) Fantasy adventure sequel, starring Logan Lerman. **6.50** My Sister's Keeper (2009) (12) Drama, starring Cameron Diaz. **9.00** Legion (2010) (15) Action fantasy, starring Paul Bettany. **11.00** Hanna (2011) (12) Action thriller, starring Saoirse Ronan. **1.10** Leaves of Grass (2009) (15) Comedy drama, starring Edward Norton. **3.20** Close

### DAVE SKY: 111 FV: 12

**7.10** Top Gear **9.00** Red Bull Soapbox: Mumbai **10.00** Steve Austin's Broken Skull Challenge **11.00** Traffic Cops **1.00** Lizard Lick Towing **2.00** Top Gear **5.00** Red Bull Soapbox: Mumbai **6.00** Top Gear **7.00** Traffic Cops **8.00** Cops UK: Bodycam Squad **9.00** Have I Got a Bit More Old News for You **10.00** QI XL **11.00** Dave Gorman: Modern Life Is Goodish **12.00** Crackanory **12.30** Mock the Week **1.10** Mock the Week Christmas Special **1.50** The Last Man on Earth **2.45** Parks and Recreation **4.00** Close

### DRAMA SKY: 158 FV: 20

**7.00** Last Tango in Halifax **8.00** The Bill **12.00** Pride and Prejudice **7.00** New Tricks **9.00** Silent Witness **11.10** Spooks **1.50** The Ruby in the Smoke **3.35** Garden Hopping **4.00** Home Shopping

### SKY1 SKY: 106

**6.00** Hour of Power **7.00** Modern Family **10.00** Supergirl **11.00** The Flash **12.00** WWE Raw Hits **1.00** Live Nissan Super Sunday. Pre-match build-up to Tottenham Hotspur v Southampton. **2.15** Futurama: Welcome to the World of Tomorrow **2.30** Modern Family **4.00** The Simpsons **5.00** Greatest Disney Songs **6.00** The Simpsons **8.00** Wild Things **9.00** Hawaii Five-0 **10.00** NCIS: Los Angeles **11.00** MacGyver **12.00** The Force: Essex **1.00** Air Ambulance ER **2.00** Police 10/7 **5.30** Futurama

### SKY ATLANTIC SKY: 108

**6.00** The West Wing **11.00** Without a Trace **4.00** Blue Bloods **9.00** Big Little Lies **10.00** Real Time with Bill Maher **11.10** Fortitude **12.10** Billions **1.20** The Wire **3.25** Veep **4.00** Richard E Grant's Hotel Secrets

### W SKY: 109

**6.00** Beauty and the Beast **6.40** Your Home in Their Hands **8.00** Choccywoccydoodah **8.30** Celebrity MasterChef **1.00** Dynamo: Magician Impossible **2.00** Doctor Who **4.00** My Family **6.00** Outnumbered **8.00** Honey I Bought the House **9.00** John Bishop: In Conversation with Lindsay Lohan **10.00** The C Word **12.00** Code Black **12.55** Outnumbered **1.30** The Musketeers **2.35** Betty White's Off Their Rockers **3.00** Home Shopping

### GOLD SKY: 110

**7.00** Cheers **7.50** The Two Ronnies **9.20** Only Fools and Horses **12.00** Boomers **12.50** Only Fools and Horses **9.00** I'm Alan Partridge **11.00** Psychoville 2 **12.20** Limmy's Show **1.40** Psychoville 2 **2.50** jam **4.00** Home Shopping

### SKY SPORTS 1 SKY: 401

**6.00** Premier League Highlights **9.30** The Sunday Supplement **11.00** Goals on Sunday **1.00** Live Nissan Super Sunday. Pre-match build-up to Tottenham Hotspur v Southampton. **2.15** Live Nissan Super Sunday. Tottenham Hotspur v Southampton (kick-off 2.15pm). **4.00** Live Nissan Super Sunday. Manchester City v Liverpool (kick-off 4.30pm). **7.00** ATP Masters Tennis **8.00** Live ATP Masters Tennis. The BNP Paribas Open final **10.30** Premier League Highlights **11.00** Goals on Sunday **12.00** Premier League Highlights **1.00** Sky Sports Boxing Gold **2.00** Fight Night **5.00** Goals on Sunday

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# ENTERTAINMENT & LISTINGS

## Happy to be playing the fool

By James Richings

COUNT Arthur Strong is a very annoying man.

The character, created by comedian Steve Delaney, is a pompous, mostly out-of-work thespian with ADHD and memory loss who believes he is a show-business legend.

But his irritating demeanour has proved popular with fans, and you can see the man in action when he arrives at The Anvil on Saturday, April 1 with his Sound of Mucus Show.

And when creating the character, Delaney found he and Arthur had one thing in common – their posture.

"When I was at drama school in London my parents came to see me," he said.

"I had a beard and a weird outfit on and was playing a torturer and I asked them if they spotted me and my mum said 'I'd recognise those round shoulders anywhere'."

He added: "Like all of Arthur's shows it's not the show he intends to give, but he thinks he is giving a pretty good account of himself.

"It starts with the best of intentions and falls apart. That's the essence of an Arthur live show."

Delaney created the character in the late 1980s when he was a student at London's Central School of Speech and Drama, and performed as him for the first time in an end of year show.

The character became instantly popular with the audience, but Steve put Arthur on the shelf to focus on his acting, where he landed roles in shows such as The Bill, Casualty and Agatha Christie's Poirot

So it wasn't until 1997 that he decided to reintroduce Arthur to the world at that year's Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

Inspired by people from Steve's childhood, the creator managed to land a deal to perform as Arthur on BBC Radio 4, before getting a TV show in 2013, with the new series of Count Arthur Strong due to be shown this spring.

"Everything I do with Arthur has to be from a starting point of affection," Steve said.

"He always ends up making a fool of himself and being pompous fiddling while Rome burns, so when the show starts, I like people arriving not knowing too much about it.

"Plus, I don't have to warm up before I start.

"I start doing it and I stop doing it, so the 90 minute show feels like 15 minutes."

Tickets cost £25.50 and it will start at 8pm.

• Steve Delaney as Count Arthur Strong

### Carr's Ultimate Gold

**COMEDY:** Jimmy Carr will be stopping off at The Anvil on Tuesday, March 21.

The award-winning comedian arrives at the Churchill Way venue as part of his Ultimate Gold UK tour, which will see him reinvigorate some of his most memorable gags.

Tickets cost £29.50 and it starts at 8pm.

This is suitable for over 16s.

### Singing the Blues

**MUSIC:** American singer-songwriter Brooks Williams will be at The Phoenix Theatre and Arts Centre in Bordon on Friday, March 24.

The 58-year-old from Georgia comes to the Station Road venue to perform tunes off his latest album Brooks' Blues.

The gig starts at 8pm and tickets cost £12.

### Duo come again

**MUSIC:** Megson will be at The Forge tomorrow night, Friday, March 17.

Made up of Stu and Debbie Hanna, the husband and wife team from County Durham will perform tunes off their new album Good Times Will Come Again.

Tickets cost £17 and it starts at 7.45pm.

## Sharing the sounds of the south

By James Richings

THE sounds of the Deep South will be heard ringing out from The Forge when singer-songwriter Bronwynne Brent arrives in Basingstoke.

Born and raised in Mississippi, the musician arrives in Hampshire to showcase tracks off her two studio albums Deep Black Water (2011) and Stardust (2014), along with tunes off her new album.

Bronwynne has kept the name under wraps so far, but revealed the album will be released in May.

And despite her success since her debut album, Bronwynne told the Observer she is still waiting for her big break.

"Meeting Loudon Temple of the Brookfield Knight's Agency at the International Folk Alliance Conference in Kansas City 2013 sure got the ball rolling," Bronwynne revealed.

"If it hadn't been for that chance meeting, I wouldn't be here now."

About the new album she said: "I experienced a lot of loss as does everyone, and I was wondering what to do next.

"Writing and singing help me find my way and it helps you heal. I was pleased that most reviews were positive.

"I try not to expect anything, that way I can be pleasantly surprised."

Encouraged to take up music at a young age, Bronwynne comes from a musical family where she would see her parents sing around her.

After learning the guitar a few years later, Bronwynne's song-writing skills took her to the UK where she gained many fans who regularly turn up at her shows, and she comes to the Churchill Way venue with follow American musicians Johnny Sangster and Jay Darwish.

Sangster has played on both of Bronwynne's albums and has recently toured with country musicians KD Lang and Neko Case, while Darwish has recently worked with Newton Faulkner.

"I just love being in the UK and meeting all the friendly folks," she said.

"I also enjoy the spectacular views of the countryside out of the window and on rare occasion a morning walk to an old castle before check out time."

She added: "Getting a break in music is like winning the lottery.

"Luck plays a big roll.

"I think a long steady climb is sometimes better than an overnight sensation.

"Play music for you, and try not to concentrate too much on the big break."

Tickets cost from £14 to £16 and it starts at 8.15pm.

### Stand up for Rob

**COMEDY:** Rob Brydon will be in Basingstoke on Friday, March 24.

The 51-year-old entertainer, who is best known for playing Bryn in the award-winning sitcom Gavin and Stacey and presenting the popular panel show Would I Lie to You, stops off at the Churchill Way venue on his I Am Standing Up... UK tour.

It starts at 8pm. Tickets £29.50.

### Dance spectacular

**DANCE:** Queen Mary's College will be hosting a dance show on Wednesday and Thursday.

The QMC Dance Mix will feature A Level and BTEC dance students at the college showing off skills that focus on jazz and contemporary dance moves.

Both shows start at 7pm and tickets cost from £3.50 to £5.50.

### Casting a spell

**THEATRE:** The Basingstoke Amateur Operatic Society will perform The Witches of Eastwick from March 21 to 25.

Alex, Jane, and Sukie have all been wishing for something exciting to happen. When they realise their lives are lacking male attention, they get what they wish for, but at a cost.

Tickets cost from £15 to £23.

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**Thu, Mar 16, 7.30pm**
*The Haymarket, Basingstoke*
**THE COUNTRY SUPER-STARS EXPERIENCE**
Sarah Jayne, who has been performing as Dolly Parton for over 24 years, and award-winning vocal impersonator Andy Crust take us on a journey back through time meeting some of the most influential figures who shaped Country history and the music.

**Fri, Mar 17, 7.45pm**
*The Haymarket, Basingstoke*
**AN EVENING OF DIRTY DANCING**
Now in its seventh record-breaking year, this five star homage to perhaps the greatest movie soundtrack of all time is a high energy emotional rollercoaster of an evening, with breath-taking choreography and buckets of nostalgia.
Includes the unforgettable songs Big Girls Don't Cry, Hey Baby, Wipeout, Do You Love Me? and many more. Put your dancing shoes on and get ready to have the time of your life!
Please note this production is not affiliated with Dirty Dancing: The Classic Story On Stage on tour in the UK and worldwide.

**Fri, Mar 17 – Tue, Mar 21**
*The Corn Exchange Cinema, Newbury*
**T2 TRAINSPOTTING**
Two decades after director Danny Boyle's groundbreaking drama set in Edinburgh's dark, druggy underbelly, the four friends drawn from Irvine Welsh's novel return to make amends... or seek revenge. Begbie (Robert Carlyle) has just been released from jail, Renton (Ewan McGregor) is making an emotional homecoming, and Sick Boy (Jonny Lee Miller) and Spud (Ewen Bremner) are awaiting them both with very mixed feelings.

**Fri, Mar 17, 7.30pm**
*The Anvil, Basingstoke*
**GOWER, COWDREY AND THE HOLY BAIL**
The two old muckers are treading the boards to discuss everything from meeting on a rugby pitch at school to growing up through the England ranks, being each other's best men and why they only seemed to end up on the same side when one of them was the captain!

**Fri, Mar 17, 7.45pm**
*The Forge, Basingstoke*
**MEGSON**
Three times nominated in the BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards and double winners of the Spiral Earth Awards, Megson draw heavily on their Teesside heritage to create a truly extraordinary brand of folk music. This husband and wife duo bring an infectious mix of heavenly vocals, lush harmonies and driving rhythmic guitars.

**Fri, Mar 18, 8pm**
*The Phoenix Theatre and Arts Centre, Bordon*
**PATRICK MONAHAN: THAT 80S SHOW**
A fun filled first half full of games and dancing warms up for the second half which is That 80s Show making a great night out!

**Sat, Mar 18, 2pm**
*The Phoenix Theatre and Arts Centre, Bordon*
**OSKAR'S AMAZING ADVENTURE**
Desperate for some fun, Oskar leaves the little house on top of the mountain to try to find a friendly animal to play with. But where are all the animals? And why does Oskar have to wait till spring to play his favourite game again? This original play for young children uses a rich mix of storytelling, physical theatre, clowning, puppetry and music & song to tell the heart-warming tale of a puppy's search for friendship in the wilderness of the Alps.

**Tue, Mar 21 – Sat, Mar 25**
*The Haymarket, Basingstoke*
**THE WITCHES OF EASTWICK**
Flying into The Haymarket, The Witches of Eastwick is a musical comedy of seduction and supernatural that must not be missed, hot on the heels of the success of last year's West Side Story.

**Tue, Mar 21, 8pm**
*The Anvil, Basingstoke*
**JIMMY CARR**
Jimmy Carr is gathering a selection of his very best jokes along with brand new material for the ultimate comedy show.

**Tue, Mar 21, 8.15pm**
*The Forge, Basingstoke*
**BRONWYNNE BRENT**
Mississippi Delta songbird, Bronwynne Brent returns to these shores having entranced the UK on her last visit.

**Wed, Mar 22, 7.45pm**
*Corn Exchange, Newbury*
**ANDY PARSONS – PEAK BULLSHIT**
You'll have seen him on the likes of Mock the Week, Live at the Apollo and QI, now's your chance to catch him live.

## COMEDY

Worried about your job? Worried about your family? Worried about yourself? Worried about the health service? Education? Climate change? World War 3? Worried about worrying?
Sod it! Come and have a laugh about it. It's one of the things we do best.

**Fri, Mar 24, 7.45pm**
*Corn Exchange, Newbury*
**CHAMPIONS OF MAGIC**
Direct from a hit season in London's West End, the world-class illusionists that make up the Champions Of Magic team return for a spectacular night of mystery that'll keep you guessing for a long time to come. With over 20 million online views between them, and sold out shows on their 2014, 2015 and 2016 tours, the cast includes international award winners presenting incredible mind reading, stunning close-up magic and daring large-scale illusions.

**Fri, Mar 24, 8pm**
*The Phoenix Theatre and Arts Centre, Bordon*
**BROOKS WILLIAMS**
Brooks Williams is ranked one of the world's Top 100 Acoustic Guitarists and is a richly diverse and entertaining performer, a proverbial triple threat, with fiery guitar playing, smooth-as-silk singing, and stunning songs.

**Sat, Mar 25, 7.30pm**
*The Phoenix Theatre and Arts Centre, Bordon*
**THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW BY CANDLELIGHT**
Award-winning actor George Dillon presents an unforgettable vision of Jesus in his highly intense, very human and occasionally humorous performance of The Gospel of Matthew.

**Sat, Mar 25, 7.45pm**
*Corn Exchange*
**BIG GIRLS DON'T CRY**

They had a sound that had never been heard before. The radio just could not get enough of them and neither can we. Join Big Girls Don't Cry as we celebrate the music of four ordinary guys from New Jersey that change the musical world as we knew it.

**Tue, Mar 28 – Thu, Mar 30**
*The Anvil, Basingstoke*
**BERKSHIRE MAESTROS**
Scores of primary schools will be gathering together for the Berkshire Maestros annual massed singing events, supported by bands and ensembles from regional music centres.

**Tue, Mar 28, 7.30pm**
*The Haymarket, Basingstoke*
**DYLAN THOMAS' UNDER MILK WOOD**
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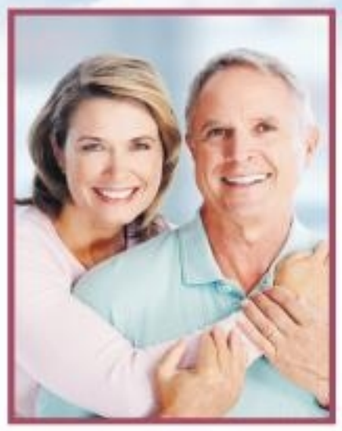
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**Fri, Mar 31, 7.30pm**
*The Phoenix Theatre and Arts Centre, Bordon*
**MORGAN & WEST: PARLOUR TRICKS**
Time travelling magic duo Morgan & West present an evening chock full of jaw dropping, brain bursting, gasp eliciting feats of magic. The dashing chaps offer up a plateful of illusion and impossibility, all served with wit, charm and no small amount of panache. Be sure to wear a hat – Morgan & West might just blow your mind.

**Sat, Apr 1, 7pm**
*Corn Exchange, Newbury*
**NEW: MUSIC SHOWCASE**
Showcasing some of the best local rock music, this spring showcase will be a lively mixture of pop punk, classic American rock and rock 'n' roll!
Fast paced live music to get you rockin' out! You can expect impressive guitar riffs throughout, a blend of clean vocals to admire and coarse vocals to coax the rebellious side in you. Bands to be announced.

**Sat, Apr 1, 8pm**
*Corn Exchange, Newbury*
**BILAL ZAFAR: CAKES**
Join Bilal as he takes you on a fascinating and hilarious journey of how his Twitter handle, @zafarcakes, became a focal point for the misguided rage of the global far right when it was mistaken for the account of a Muslim-only bakery.

**Wed, Apr 5, 7.30pm**
*The Anvil, Basingstoke*
**AL MURRAY**
Publican. Politician. Other thing beginning with P. Philosopher, yeah, that. The nation's critically acclaimed bar-based-braveheart, Al Murray - The Pub Landlord, embarks on a common sense campaign to re-Great Britain in his brand new show.

**Wed, Apr 5, 8pm**
*Corn Exchange, Newbury*
**JOEL DUMMETT**
Fresh from his hugely memorable performance on 2016's I'm A Celebrity Get Me Out Of Here, one of the UK's most energetic and exciting comedians returns to the road with his solo show.

**Thu, Apr 6, 7pm**
*The Anvil, Basingstoke*
**CHAIRMAN'S YEAR OF MUSIC: STAFF SHOWCASE**
Bring your family to hear your Hampshire Music Service teachers share their amazing talents! Over 150 Hampshire Music Service instrumental and vocal teachers are coming to the stage to perform a number of familiar favourites.

**Sat, Apr 8, 7.45pm**
*The Forge, Basingstoke*
**O'HOOLEY & TIDOW**
Having the originality and skill to invite comparison with the most celebrated harmony duos, from early Simon and Garfunkel to the iconic Kate and Anna McGarrigle, Belinda and Heidi's powerful, deeply moving, and soulful performances are infused with an honesty and empathy that will disarm the hardest of hearts.

**Tue, Apr 11, 7.30pm**
*The Anvil, Basingstoke*
**THE BOOTLEG BEATLES**
Tracing the Fab Four's journey through the sixties, every tiny detail is meticulously covered from costumes to authentic period instruments; from their witty Scouse banter to their inflection perfect vocal mimicry. Complete with a little help from their orchestral ensemble, this is a not-to-be-missed spectacular for Beatlemaniacs of all ages.

**Thu, Apr 13, 1.30pm**
*Corn Exchange, Newbury*
**THE PARTY**
A man excitedly waits for the guests to arrive at his party. The cake is made, the presents have arrived, and the music is playing – all he needs are his friends to make this the best birthday ever.

**Tue, Apr 18, 11.30am and 2pm**
*Corn Exchange, Newbury,*
**AMAZING BUBBLE MAN**
Louis Pearl has been thrilling audiences around the world for nearly 30 years with the art, magic, science and fun of bubbles.

**Thu, Apr 20, 7.45pm**
*Corn Exchange, Newbury*
**SOMEONE LINE YOU**
Hand-picked by Adele herself on Graham Norton's Adele at the BBC Special, the outstanding Katie Markham has the show-stopping voice and captivating charisma to deliver all your favourite Adele hits in an enthralling concert performance.

**Thu, Apr 20, 8pm**
*Corn Exchange, Newbury*
**SAM KELLY & JAMIE FRANCIS**
Folk duo Sam Kelly and Jamie Francis bring their fresh new sound to New Greenham Arts.

**Fri, Apr 21, 8pm**
*The Anvil, Basingstoke*
**RUSSELL KANE**
In this brand new show, Russell Kane unleashes another blisteringly funny stand-up performance about growing up and growing down.

**Sat, Apr 22, 7.45pm**
*The Anvil, Basingstoke*
**AL STEWART**
For 50 years, Al Stewart has been writing and singing songs. Now he's going on tour with acoustic versions from his musical back catalogue, going all the way back to the bedsit with Bedsitter Images. He will be accompanied by his long-time collaborator Dave Nachmanoff and joined by guitarist Tim Renwick.

*Advertorial*

## THIRD AND FINAL HEADLINER CONFIRMED FOR READING & LEEDS 2017 EMINEM

**Reading and Leeds have confirmed Eminem as the final headliner for this year's festivals, taking place on 25 – 27 August 2017 at Richfield Avenue, Reading and Bramham Park, Leeds. Tickets are available here.**

Consistently seen as one of the greatest rappers of all time, Eminem is not only a titan in hip-hop but in modern culture itself. One of the biggest selling artists of the 21st century, his razor-sharp wit and impeccable larger than life anthems continue to defy boundaries, with the likes of 'Lose Yourself', 'My Name Is', 'Not Afraid' and 'The Monster' all storming charts and record collections around the world. His return to Reading and Leeds marks an extremely rare opportunity to witness an icon in the flesh, with a set that'll add another legendary chapter to the story of Eminem.

Melvin Benn commented: "Eminem returning to Reading and Leeds is beyond exciting. His 2013 headline performance was incredible and I can't wait to have him back. In addition to our third and final headliner (joining Kasabian and Muse) we've announced over 70 additional acts to this year's line up - it's looking stronger than ever."

AutoWeekly
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# Skoda Citigo – it's such a scream

By **Tony Yates**

SKODA has always put value for money at the forefront of everything they do, and in keeping with that, the Skoda Citigo is a small, value for money, city-friendly hatchback that is actually more sophisticated than most of its rivals and at a price that most of us looking for a small family car can easily afford.

## Power and Efficiency

The Citigo I had on test had been fitted with a 1.0 MPi 60PS engine and is one of the best non turbo units I have come across in recent years.

Fuel consumption is around the 60mpg if you drive it without pushing too hard, and flat out you can expect to achieve a max speed of around 100mph and 0-62 time of around 14sec.

I know what you are all thinking though – is it slow? Well actually it nips around really well and it does not feel underpowered at all.

## On the Road

The little Citigo is a scream – it's easy to drive and feels brilliant for such a small car, but you do need to remember this is not a race car. It's an eco warrior that was designed to save you money as well as look good.

As for the handling – I would give it five stars because it's as good as the competition when the road gets twisty. Also, it's actually very quiet and quite refined. While the ride is a little bouncy, it's pretty decent really thanks mainly to Skoda doing a pretty good job on the suspension setup.

## Safety and Technology

The safety side of the Citigo is impressive too – with standard equipment like anti-lock braking, driver's and front passenger's airbags and electronic stability control. As with all Skodas the interior is a little bland – but functional – but I like the body coloured dash panel and the centre speedo which gives it a better feel all round. The seats are very good and hold you firm.

There is also an array of kit such as 15-inch auriga black alloy wheels, electric front windows, front fog lamps, manual air-conditioning, AM/FM radio including colour display with aux-in and SD card, USB ports, six speakers and Bluetooth, rear seat backrest split 60/40, remote central locking and sunset glass.

## To Sum Up

It's a great little car for doing the school run and for all the times when you need to nip into town to do a little retail therapy.

There is no doubt in my mind that Citigo will live with you for a very long time and you will instantly replace it with another when the time is right.

To be honest it's like your secret little friend that will make you feel happy every time you turn the key to go off on another little adventure.

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Kadjar Dynamique Nav TCe 130 monthly payment based on £2,913 deposit, 36 monthly payments of £199, optional final payment of £10,018. New Clio Dynamique Nav 1.2 16v 75 monthly payment based on £2,133 deposit, 36 monthly payments of £149, optionalfinal payment of £5,418. Captur Dynamique Nav TCe 90 monthly payment based on £2,537 deposit, 36 monthly payments of £159, optional final payment of £6,674. All-New Mégane Hatch Dynamique Nav TCe 130 monthly payment based on £3,256 deposit, 36 monthly payments of £219, optional final payment of £6,360. Finance provided by Renault Finance, PO Box 149, Watford WD17 1FJ. Subject to status. Indemnities may be required. UK residents only (excluding the Channel Islands). Over 18s. Terms and conditions apply. Offer based on 6,000 miles per annum, excess mileage 8p per mile inc VAT. Finance available on selected new vehicles when ordered and registered by 31st March 2017. Excludes New Clio Expression models. Captur shown with metallic paint, and painted roof at an extra £894. New Clio shown has optional metallic paint, available at £625. Kadjar shown has optional metallic paint, available at £645. All-New Mégane Hatch shown with optional metallic paint, available at £545.

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17 PLATE

# 17 PLATE

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Fiat Punto 1.2 5Dr

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**Eden Fiat Basingstoke | Tel: 01256 355221**
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**Sales opening hours**
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23.03.17

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Year: 2003
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SB38027 / 30.3.17

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Miles: 66,300
Colour: Silver
MOT: August 2017
**Price: £2,595 ono**

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Year: 2009
Miles: 60,200
MOT: Mar 2018
Colour: Dark Blue
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30.3.17

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Year: 2012
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Colour: Silver
MOT: May 2017
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MOT: Aug 2017
Colour: Met Black
**Price: £5,695 ono**

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# AutoWeekly

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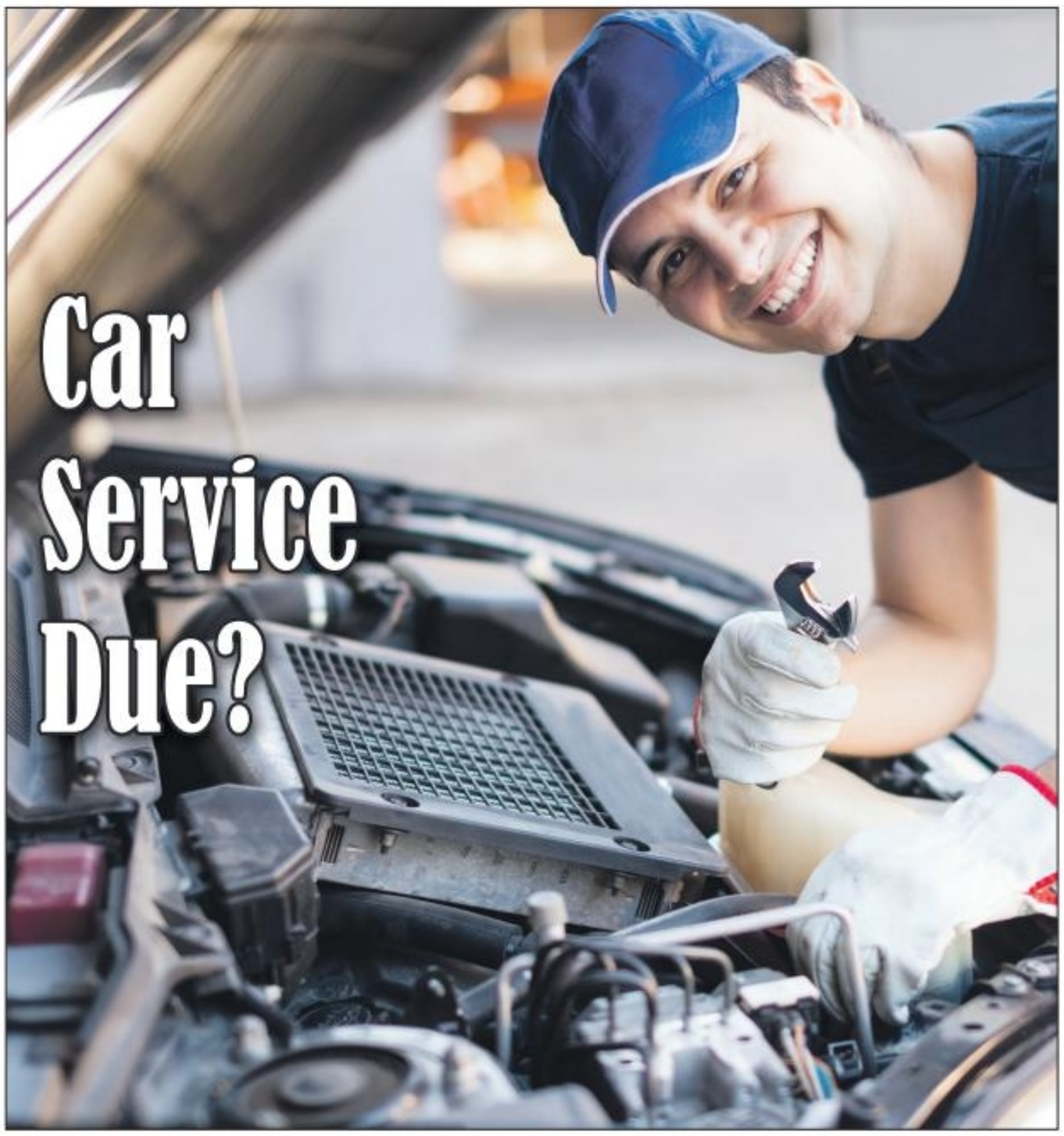


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# AutoWeekly

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# Observer recruitment

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gilson engineering

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Applicants will be required to undertake an initial driving assessment as part of the interview process.

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If you feel this opportunity to join our team suits your next career move please contact Joanne Morton on 01256 889082. Alternatively apply online at www.mortonstravel.com

## REPORTER WANTED

**We are looking for a talented, enthusiastic reporter for our Basingstoke Observer newspaper.**

The ideal candidate should have the NCTJ or equivalent qualification and some experience as a reporter would be preferable.

You should be a motivated, self-starter and be keen to take on the responsibility of working on a busy title covering this lively news patch.

The role covers news and sport for both the newspaper and online.

This is a great opportunity to develop your career as you develop the Basingstoke Observer, in print, online and through social media.

*Please apply with your CV to the editor Karen Neville at karen@taylornewspapers.co.uk*

Newbury & Thatcham Observer

**REQUIRES EXPERIENCED MEDIA SALES PEOPLE**

Must have at least 2 year experience in the industry

Competitive salary, bonus, commissions & expenses

*Please call Julian Richings on 07788 211644 for more details.*

Basingstoke Observer

**REQUIRES EXPERIENCED MEDIA SALES PEOPLE**

Must have at least 2 year experience in the industry

Competitive salary, bonus, commissions & expenses

*Please call Julian Richings on 07788 211644 for more details.*

## For Sale

**PAIR** of aluminium pull cord ladders, £40 Tel: 01256 762335

**3** cases, 1 large, 2 medium on wheels. Nice clean condition. Free to collector. Tel: 01256 427943

**VARIOUS** tools. Some new , some used and car ramps, £30 the lot. Tel after 5pm. Tel: 01256 427943

**4** drawer filing cabinet with jeys. Good condition £10. Tel after 5pm. Te: 01256 427943

**10** western DVDs. Good condition. £5 Tel: 01256 816794.

**LIGHTSHADE.** Sealed as new. Matches wallpaper variant blue green shades. 12 inch £2.00 Tel: 01256 463213

**WALL** paper. 6 rolls, 3 boarders. Sealed as new. Vymura washable variant blue green shades. £6 Tel: 01256 463213

**KITCHEN** hand held whisk. Prestige £3 Tel' 01256463213

**CAMPING** trailer 4x3. Lockable lid. Spare wheel, lights, ideal carbooter. VGC Basingstoke £85 Tel: 07932 325309

**TOWER** pressure cooker. Unused £20.

**CANTEEN** cutlery in wooden box. Stainless steel. Excellent condition. £55 Tel: 07570852610

**BOWLS** set and carry bag. £70ONO Tel: 01256 326748Large wooden standard lamp with large pink shade. £30 Tel: 01256 850300

**TV** 32in LG swivel with digital box. £120. Three seater garden swing. Canopy on top with cover. Flat pack. £95. El: 01256 541829TV corner table. 3 glass shelves VGC £30, Tel: 01256 541829

**UPVC** windows. 7 number. Varying sizes £50 or £10 each. Tel: 01189 812350

**TWO** seater settee. Black leather (big enough for three people) VGC £300 Tel: 01256 541829

**BLACK** and Decker small kango and drill in metal box £9 Tel: 01189 812350

**ROOF** rack to suit Vauxhall Como Van. Cost £75 will take £40 Tel: 01189 812350

**NU-TOOL** mitre electric saw 9" blade £8 Tel: 01189 812350

**DRAPER** mitre saw with box £5 Tel: 01189 812350

**XMAS** tree wrought iron stand £4 Tel: 01189 812350

**SLR** Camera equipment for all types of photography Tripod, all lenses, filters etc. Will sell separately. Tel: 01189 713675

**SIZE** 20-24 clothes, shoes, bags, coats. Need space so happy to sell at cheap prices. Good condition. Tel: 07971 962395

**BLACK** wrought iron gate. 178cm x 71cm. £30 Tel: 01235 819757

**SINGLE** divan bed. Free, must be collected. Tel: 01267 464547

**FOUR** drawer file cabinet with keys. Good condition £30. Phone after 5pm. Tel: 01256 427943

**RALEIGH** Veloce retro road bike 531 frame. 14 gears. Suit rider 5'10" plus tri colour paint scheme £80 Tel: 07979 260858

**CRIVET** arm and leg trainer. £20 Tel: 01256411741

**PIANO** Metzler, iron frame, walnut veneer, antique. Buyer collects. Needs tuning. £600 ono. Worth more, need space. Tel: 01635 820437

**MTD** garden shredder. Hardly used. Good condition £50 Tel: 01256 620370

## Holidays

**Bournemouth Coach Holidays**

☎ 01202 767 022

**4 Night Breaks**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 27th March - 31st March | £139 | 1st May - 5th May | £156 |
| 3rd April - 7th April | £145 | 8th May - 12 May | £162 |
| 10th April - 14th April | £149 | 15th May - 19th May | £164 |
| 17th April - 21st April | £149 | 22nd May - 26th May | £164 |
| 24th April - 28th April | £149 | 29th May - 2nd June | £164 |

**5 Night Breaks**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 4th June - 9th June | £212 | 9th July - 14th July | £242 |
| 11th June - 17th June | £218 | 16th July - 21st July | £262 |
| 18th June - 23rd June | £222 | 23rd July - 28 July | £262 |
| 25th June - 30th June | £242 | 30th July - 4th Aug | £268 |
| 2nd July - 7th July | £242 | 6th Aug - 11th Aug | £268 |

**6 Night Breaks**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 18th Mar - 24th Mar | £209 | 22nd April - 28th April | £215 |
| 25th Mar - 3th Mar | £209 | 29th April - 5th May | £222 |
| 1st April - 7th April | £209 | 6th May - 12th May | £224 |
| 8th April - 14th April | £209 | 13th May - 19th May | £232 |
| 15th April - 21 April | £209 | 20th May - 26th May | £242 |

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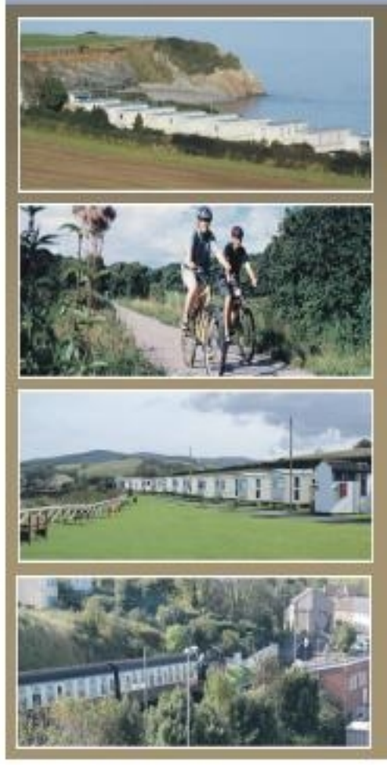

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**THREE** suitcases. 1 lrg, 2 med. Excellent, clean, new condition. On Wheels. £15 all three. Phone after 5pm. Tel: 01256 427943

**TONNEAU** black leather convertible car cover for Mk5 Ford Escort. VGC £30 Phone after 5pm. Tel: 01256 427943

**LARGE** pickaxe. Used. Only £10 Tel: 01256 335992

**RALEIGH** Clubman gents handbuilt cycle. 12 Derailleur gears. Old but good condition £60 Tel: 01256 324004

**WHEELCHAIR.** Nearly new. Adult £50, rain cover and bag included. Tel: 01256410466

**MIRROR** 44"x34". Gold 2" ornate edging. Very good condition. £50 Tel: 01635 32621

**TELEPHONE.** Corded, white. Easy to use large dialing display. As new, hardly used. £10 Tel: 01635 32621

**DESIGNER** black jacket by Zara. Down filled. Size medium. Slim fit. £45 ono Tel: 01635 278354

**DIGITAL** camera. Fujifilm FinePix F180 including XD picture cards and camer case. £20. Tel: 01256 781308

**LARGE** fruit bowl. Unused gift. Exc cond £5 Tel: 01256 335992

**LARGE** multi colour brolly. Ideal for golf etc. Exc Cond. £10 Tel: 01256 335992

**1960'S** record case full of assorted LPs. All in vgc Offers? Tel: 01256335992

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**RECORD** workshop vice. 90mm. Good condition £30 Tel: 01635 741247

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**VENETIAN** Blind. White, width 1.75m, Drop: 1.29M. Slats 32. New old stock in original packaging £10 Tel: 01635 202945

**BRAND** new steel wheel & tyre unused. Will fit Peugeot 207. £45. Tel: 07759469219.

**RING:** Portable power pack Only £50. As New. Tel. 07759469219

**XBOX** 360 complete with hard disc, leads, wireless controller, power unit and Call of Duty game. Excellent £35 Tel: 01256 773133

**FISH** tank and matching cabinet. Silver 24ins long. H 48ins VGC £60 Tel: 01256 850845

**THREE** and two seater sofas. Brown leather. Electric recliners. VGC Buyer collects £250 Tel: 01256 422944

**GOLF** clubs, bag, trolley, shoes. £40 Tel: 01256 477670

**MTD** garden shredder. Hardly used £50 Tel: 01292 620370

**LARGE** rain water butt. £30 Tel: 01635 827560

**VALOR** homeflame gas fire VGC £25 Tel: 01189 411934. 07780698303

**THREE** builders planks. Very good condition £30 Tel: 01635 741247

**COMPUTER** desk with chair for sale. £10 Tel: 01256 331023

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## For Sale

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**HAMSTER** cage. New. 39x57x31cm, £19 Tel: 01189 411934. 07780698303

**AEG** double oven and grill. VGC New kitchen forces sale. £35 Tel: 01189 411934. 07780698303

**RABBIT** hutch. 2 storey H 50" D 27" W 54" VGC. Bargain £75 Tel: 01189 411934. 07780698303

**FUTON** sofa bed with mattress and floral cover, £25 buyer to collect. Tel: 07722 332086

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**MOTORCYCLE** jacket as new. 34/36 chest. Make Cordura £30 Tel: 07789124612

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**LEAF** vacuum blower. Collection bag, shoulder strap. 2 stroke McCulloch GBV 34S. As new. Unwanted gift £100 Tel: 01635 31597

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man seeking

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**KEN**, mature, 58, genuine, white, curious male, wltm white single or widowed lady, 65-75, mature and genuine, for friendship and fun times in private. If you would like a toy boy who is genuine and down to earth, strange request but true, give me a call! **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 425603**

**GOOD** looking athletic male, 30s, with brown hair/blue eyes seeks woman for fun times. **Text only. Mailbox: 5792232**

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# Win makes second title a near cert

HARTLEY Wintney are on the verge of claiming a second Combined Counties Football League title in as many years after beating their main rivals Westfield 3-1 on Saturday.

Westfield took the lead in the second minute, but Wintney fought back and levelled inside the opening quarter of an hour as Adam Liddle volleyed home.

It would take until the 74th minute before the runaway league leaders could snatch the lead as Steven Duff fired home a low shot.

And they sealed their win in the closing stages as Sam Argent added their third.

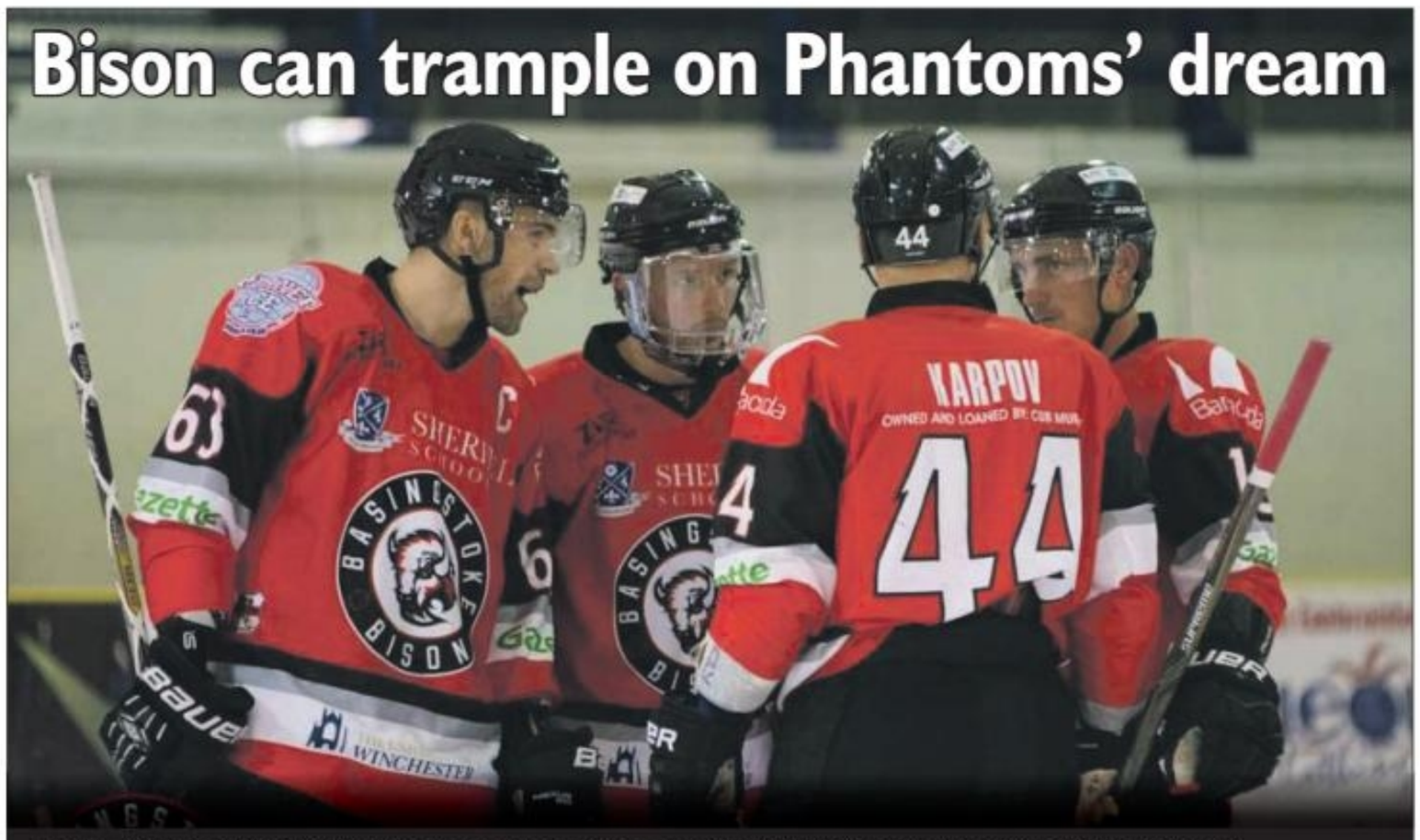
The result keeps Wintney 23 points clear of second-placed Hanworth Villa, who with seven games left cannot mathematically win the title.

Westfield, in third on 68 points, still technically have a chance, owing to games in hand over Hanworth.

In all likelihood though the title is not going anywhere except to Hartley Wintney, who have been in dominant form all season having won 30 of their 36 games so far.

Wintney are away to Epson and Ewell on Saturday.

# Bison can trample on Phantoms' dream



• *Basingstoke Bison play their final two league games of the season this weekend (Picture by grantkingphotography.com)*

BASINGSTOKE Bison have a chance of snatching third place in the English Ice Hockey Premier League after Peterborough Phantoms slipped up against Guildford Flames on Saturday.

Bison didn't have any games scheduled over the weekend, so all eyes were on the tie in Surrey.

Flames came out on top 4-2, meaning the Phantoms stay just one point ahead of the Herd but having played a game more.

With the season ending this weekend, Bison have two games versus Swindon Wildcats to pick up the points they need – away on Saturday before playing on home ice on Sunday.

The Phantoms meanwhile face the Flames again on Sunday, who themselves are battling with Swindon for fifth in the standings.

Bison begin their play-off campaign next Wednesday and follow that with two home matches on March 26 and April 1.

Eight qualifying teams will battle for a place in the Coventry finals weekend on April 8 and 9.

Telford Tigers will finish top of the league with 81 points after having lost just five games all season, with Milton Keynes Lightning confirmed in second.

Bracknell Bees end bottom of the pile after Manchester Phoenix dropped out of the league.

# Men rue missed chances as sloppy late goals cost them

By Adam Flinn

BASINGSTOKE Hockey Club men's 1sts conceded two late goals as they settled for a draw against league leaders London Academicals on Saturday.

Defending a two-goal lead, Basingstoke let in two sloppy shots from the runaway Hampshire/Surrey Regional 1 leaders in the final eight minutes of the game to narrowly miss out on victory.

And things got even worse on Sunday as they were comfortably beaten 3-0 by Barnes.

Saturday's game began with Basingstoke on the front foot and they had a number of chances in the early stages, but were unable to make a breakthrough before half-time.

It didn't take them long to open their account following the restart, and Grant Rouse fed Mark Smith who knocked the ball over the keeper.

Pretty soon it was two as Dan Bowden was unmarked at the back post to collect the ball and lift it into the net.

But Basingstoke missed chances to seal the win, and with eight minutes left conceded a scrappy goal to give Academicals a lifeline.

This inspired them and after winning a series of short corners were finally able to flick the ball into the net and save themselves a draw.

Playing again the following day against Barnes, Basingstoke couldn't repeat their strong performance, with goals from Martin Holden-White, Charlie McCartney and Ben Phillips condemning them to defeat.

It leaves Basingstoke fourth in the table on 29 points, although third and the relegation zone are separated by just eight points in an incredibly tight division.

Basingstoke host Woking in their next game on Saturday.

Elsewhere, the ladies' 1sts remain top of the South Clubs' Women's Hockey League Division 2 despite being held to a draw by Epsom.

Closest rivals Teddington could also only manage a draw against London Wayfarers so Basingstoke's gap at the top stays at four points.

They make the trip to Havant his weekend.

## Sport Bites

### Game called off

**FOOTBALL:** Basingstoke Town Ladies had their home match with Plymouth Argyle Ladies postponed on Sunday.

It was their second game in a row that was called off.

It means they haven't played since being thrashed 5-0 by Women's Premier League South West Division 1 leaders Chichester City on February 26.

Basingstoke are ninth in the table and will hope to get a game this Sunday when they play host to fifth-placed Larkhall Athletic.

### 'Stoke beaten

**RUGBY:** Basingstoke RFC suffered a second successive loss as they were beaten 57-35 away to Teddington on Saturday.

'Stoke have fallen eight points behind third-placed Old Cranleighans in the London 3 South West, having also lost to Trojans last week.

With no match this weekend Basingstoke will be looking for a return to form at home to Eastleigh on March 25.

### Rare victory

**FOOTBALL:** Whitchurch United earned a rare 1-0 victory at home to Sholing on Saturday afternoon.

Jamie Mansell got the goal for what was Whitchurch's first win in six.

It ends a four-game losing streak in which they had failed to score a goal.

Whitchurch sit 20th in the Wessex Premier League table with 28 points.

They play Bournemouth on Saturday.

### Tadley triumph

**FOOTBALL:** Tadley Calleva picked up a 2-0 win away at New Milton Town at the weekend.

However they were then beaten 1-0 at home to Baffins Milton Rovers on Tuesday evening.

Calleva are eighth in the Wessex Division One table with 57 points, and next visit Pewsey Vale this Saturday.

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Inside: Hockey men's 1sts throw away two goal lead | Hartley Wintney close in on title | Bison look to secure third place in standings

# Do the maths! 'Stoke can't make play-offs

By Adam Flinn

BASINGSTOKE Town couldn't put a stop to Leamington's charge towards the top of the Southern Premier League summit as they were beaten 2-0 at The Ark Cancer Charity Stadium on Saturday.

The result now makes it mathematically impossible for Basingstoke to reach the play-offs.

The visitors had won six of their previous seven games so it was always going to be a tough ask for Basingstoke, and so it proved as they didn't register a single shot on goal.

Leamington had the ball in the back of the net inside the opening three minutes, but Jack Edwards' header was ruled offside.

It didn't take the visitors long to grab the lead, as in their next attack Courtney Baker-Richardson won the ball in a scramble in the box, allowing Ahmed Obeng the chance to score.

And pretty quickly they scored their second, which began as Edwards forced Marcus Johnson-Schuster into giving the ball away.

This allowed Rob Thompson-Brown to pick up possession, cut inside and fire a low drive past Alex Tokarczyk into the bottom corner. At two goals down inside 10 minutes Basingstoke had a mountain to climb, but to their credit dug in and pushed forward during the remainder of the first half.

Aaron Jarvis shot wide from a good position, while Michael Atkinson's attempt to play the ball across goal drifted harmlessly wide.

Yet it proved impossible for Basingstoke to crack Leamington's defence, and it remained 2-0 going into half-time.

The second half didn't produce much in the way of excitement, and while Leamington had a couple of chances the scoreline didn't change and the three points headed back to Warwickshire.

It leaves Basingstoke 13th in the table with 50 points after 39 games, and after the weekend's results mathematically they cannot now reach the play-off places.

Seven league games remain, and Basingstoke next travel to 11th placed King's Lynn Town on Saturday.

## Have your say online

• *Aaron Jarvis had one of Basingstoke's few chances during the match (P icture by Dan Murphy)*

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